

Otaku

FREE POSTER!!

February 2014

P 95

HOT ANIME

- *TOKYO RAVENS
- *UNBREAKABLE MACHINE DOLL

ANIME

- *SOUL EATER
- *07-GHOST
- *GUNDAM BUILD FIGHTERS

+7 MORE ANIME!

New to Cosplay?

Our props making tips
will help you along
your journey!

FAIRY TAIL CULIDS

KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM

MANGA

- *MAGNOLIA IN DREAM WORLD
- *WAGATSUMA-SAN ORE no Yome

PSICOM

psicompublishing.com

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LOG HORIZON
JUMP INTO THE DATABASE!

HK..18.03 HKD IN..22,612.30 IDR JP..230.84 JPY MY..6.92 MYR SG..2.86 SGD

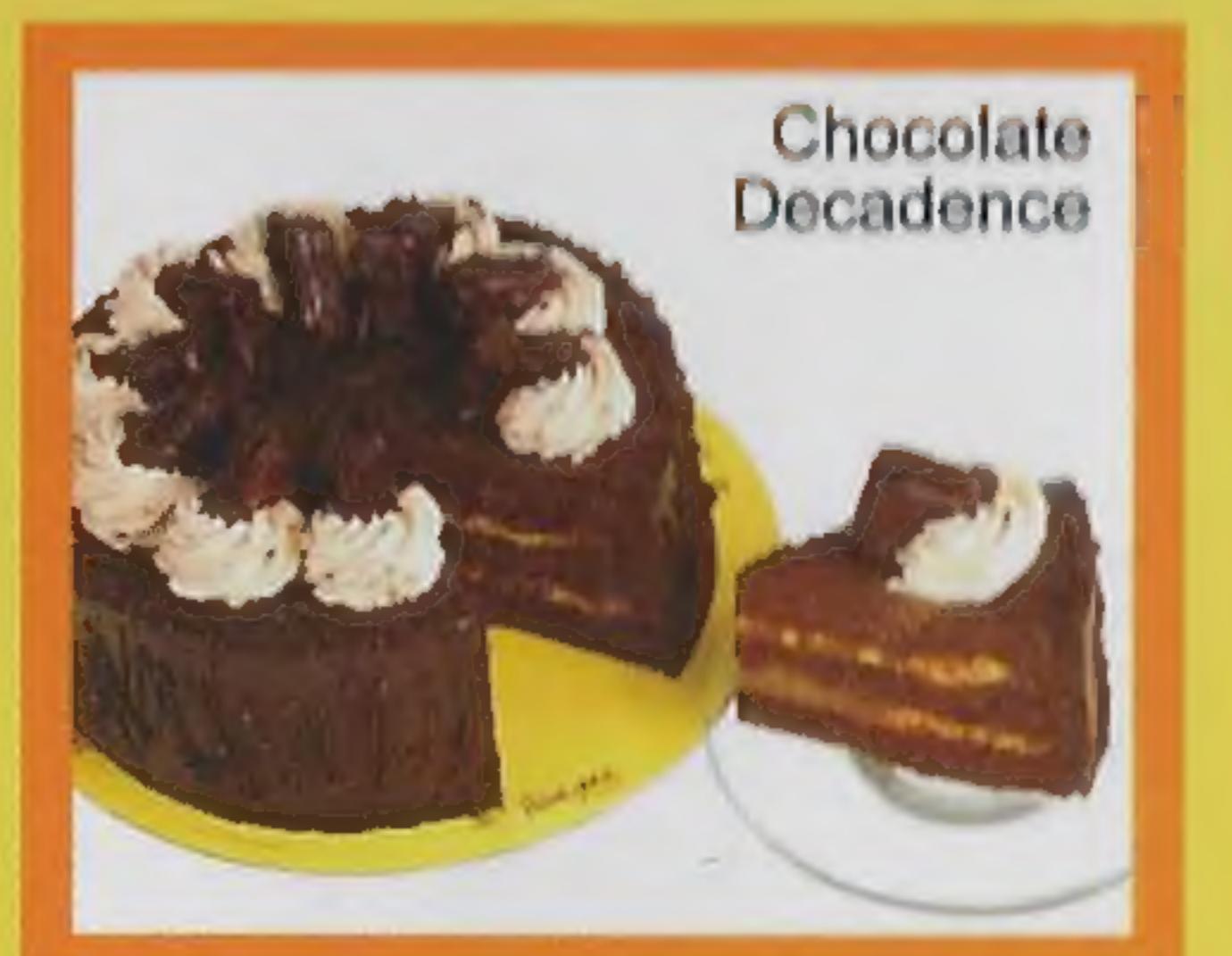
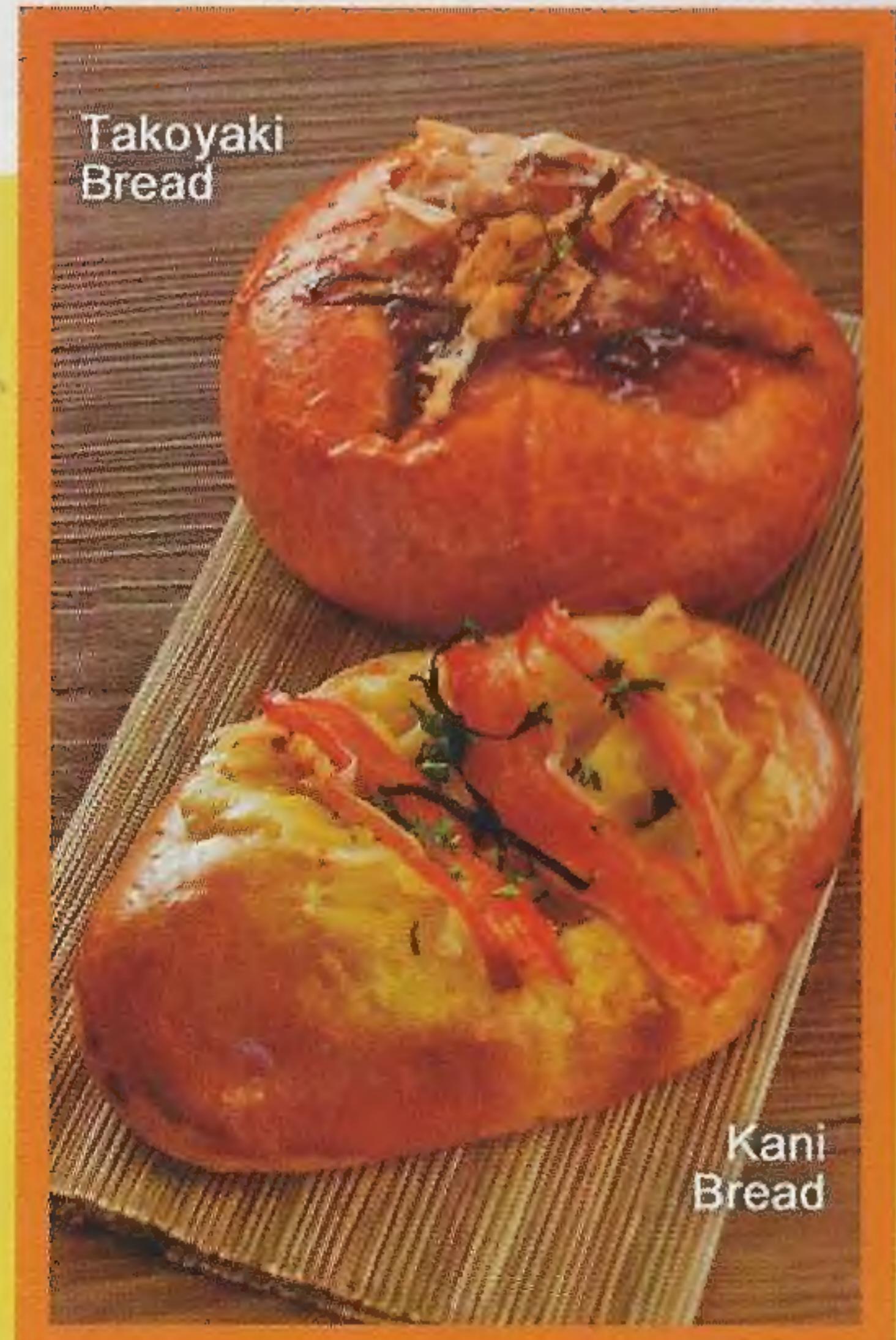
TW..68.61 TWD TH..68.81 THB



Honeybee Patisserie is not just your ordinary bakeshop. It offers a wide array of Japanese Inspired, freshly baked breads and homemade cakes and pastries.



You don't need to fly all the way to Japan just to have a taste of delightful treats. Located around Greenhills, The Fort and Westgate areas, Honeybee Patisserie can give you the taste of Tokyo's authentic desserts when you get that midnight sweet craving. They serve delicious and exciting twists to your palate. Try their very own Tokyo Tiramisu, Takoyaki Bread and Matcha Cappuccino that will surely make you come back for more!

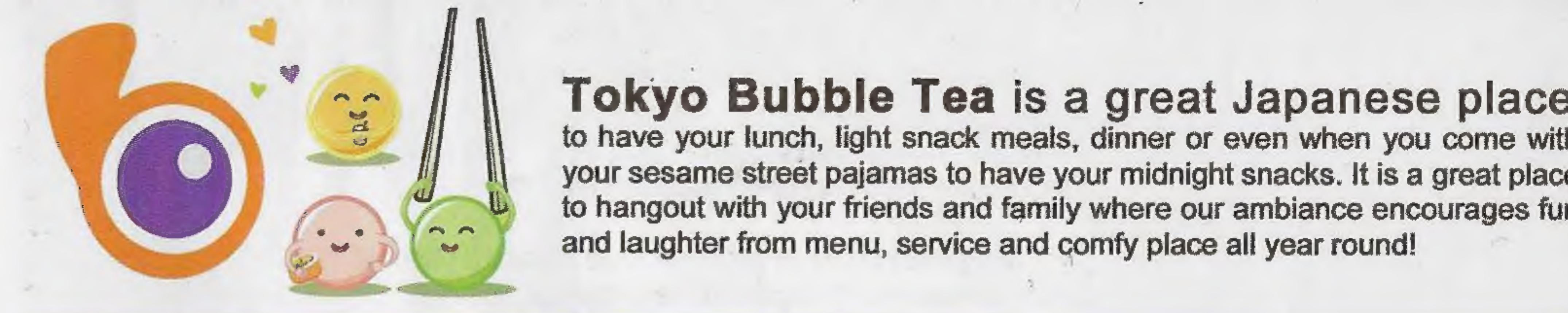


For orders and pick-up:

Greenhills
229 Wilson St.,
Greenhills San Juan
584-1998
Mon-Sun (10Am- 1 AM)

Fort
Unit 2, G/F
The Fort Residences
30th St., Taguig
478-7483
Mon-Sun (9am- 4am)

Westgate
Unit 101 Cluster J,
Westgate Center,
Commerce Ave, Alabang
511-0939
Mon-Sun (11am-12am)

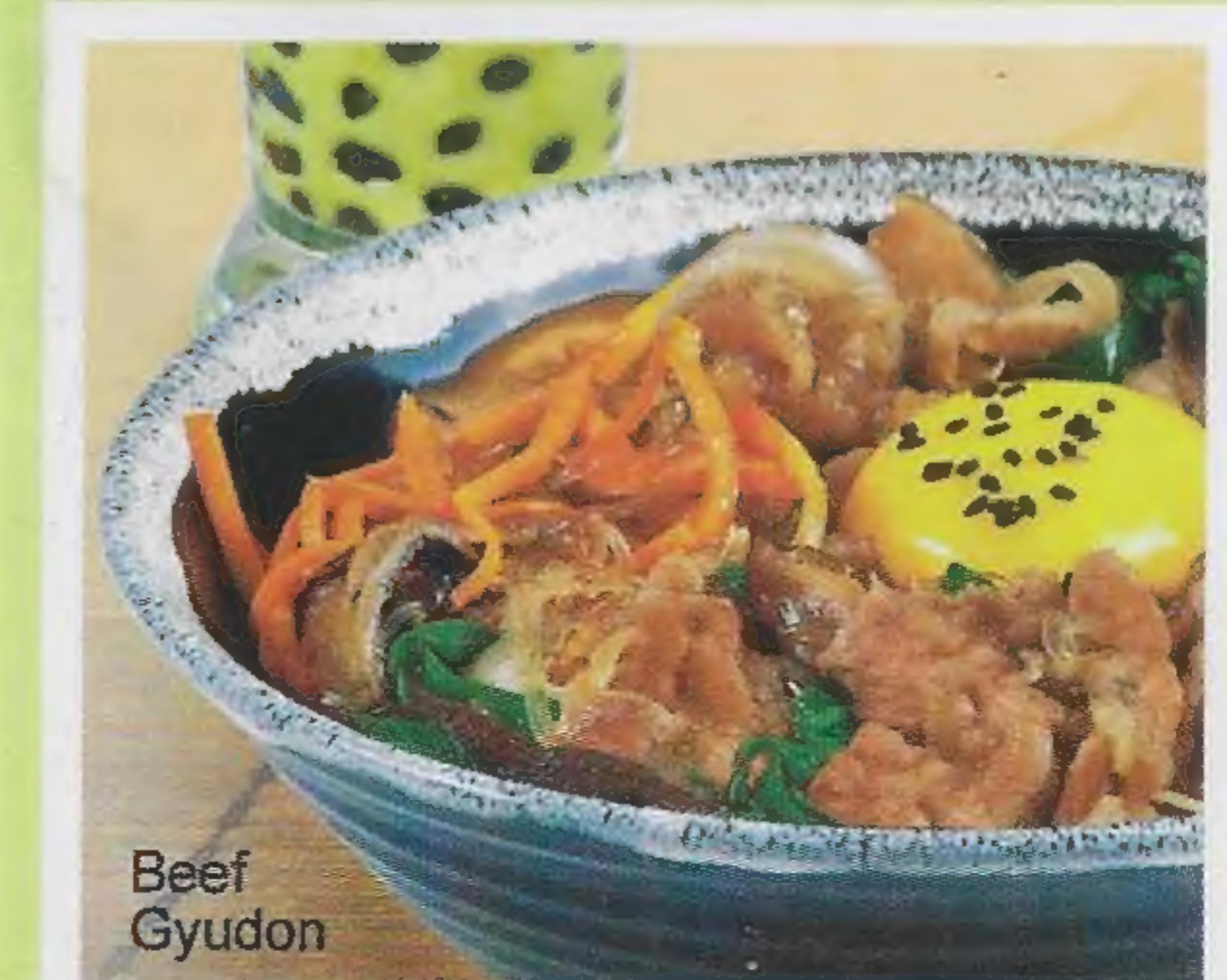


Tokyo Bubble Tea is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambiance encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!



Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambiance and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.



Our Product

We brew our tea everyday to give you the top-quality, fresh, healthy and all natural Tea drinks served with fun soft-chewy bubbles, Tokyo style. In addition, we only offer good, healthy and freshly-cooked food to make sure you get the best out of your favorite Japanese cuisine.



Due to overwhelming response of our customers, Bubble Tea is planning to expand its business and open more outlets in and outside Metro Manila.

Currently, Bubble Tea has branches in SM Megamall & SM North EDSA-The Block, which started 2007, and in Tomas Morato, Q.C. & Wilson, Greenhills, which started 2010, at The Fort, which started 2011 and now open at Westgate in Alabang, Harborpoint in Subic, Robinsons Place in Bacolod and Marquee Mall in Pampanga.

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Love is in the air. Your love for drawing, cosplaying and merchandise is now in Otaku Asia! OA February 2014 features the most kawaii cosplayer yet, Ashley Misaki and the hardcore props from Subsonic Forge.

Log Horizon is one of the most interesting animes this season. Trapped inside a game they all once played in a computer, they decide to make it work for them despite all. Led by Shiroe, they establish a government, a society, laws and an economy. They accomplish this because they focus on what is more important.

Otafans are important to the OA Team that's why we want to bring you the best reviews, games and music. We love your opinions and your suggestions. Now, we want to encourage you to send us submissions. Manga or anime reviews, game reviews or news. Our website, Facebook, Twitter and gmail are always open for anything you send to us.

Send us foooooooood!!
Love, kanddy-sama

Contributor's New Year's Resolution

My New Year's Resolution is to always do my best in everything, and be happy (because I'm graduating! yay!)

-Ann Carmel Flores

My New Year's Resolution is to stop procrastinating.

-Dhanliza Atayde Cellona

My New Year's Resolution is not to be late.

-Pam Ola

My New Year's Resolution is to continue living my life to the fullest without any regrets.

-Mikelle Abubo

My New Year's Resolution is to put more effort than ever and be the best that I can in all I do.

-John Robert Lim

My New Year's Resolution is to finish my manuscript and finally submit it on a publishing company.

...and look for a new source of motivation to do everything.

-Nathaniel Angeles

NISSIN

TM





INBOX



Kimberly Perada

Konnichiwa, OA staff ^__^
thanks for having this awesome magazine, you're the best >///<

keep on giving us, your dear beloved Otaku followers the hottest and latest issues/news regarding anime and all

ahmmmm... in your upcoming issues, please feature Nise Koi, Noragami and Super Sonico The Animation ^__^ those are my favorites this winter season

Btw, Greetings to Sekai no Otaku group Aishiteru Anime and Anime Revolution Society Clan

-JAYLockser desu ^__^



request ko po kung pede. cover nyo ang Golden Time. hehehe salamat po

- Von Neo Gozos.

SSDAAA

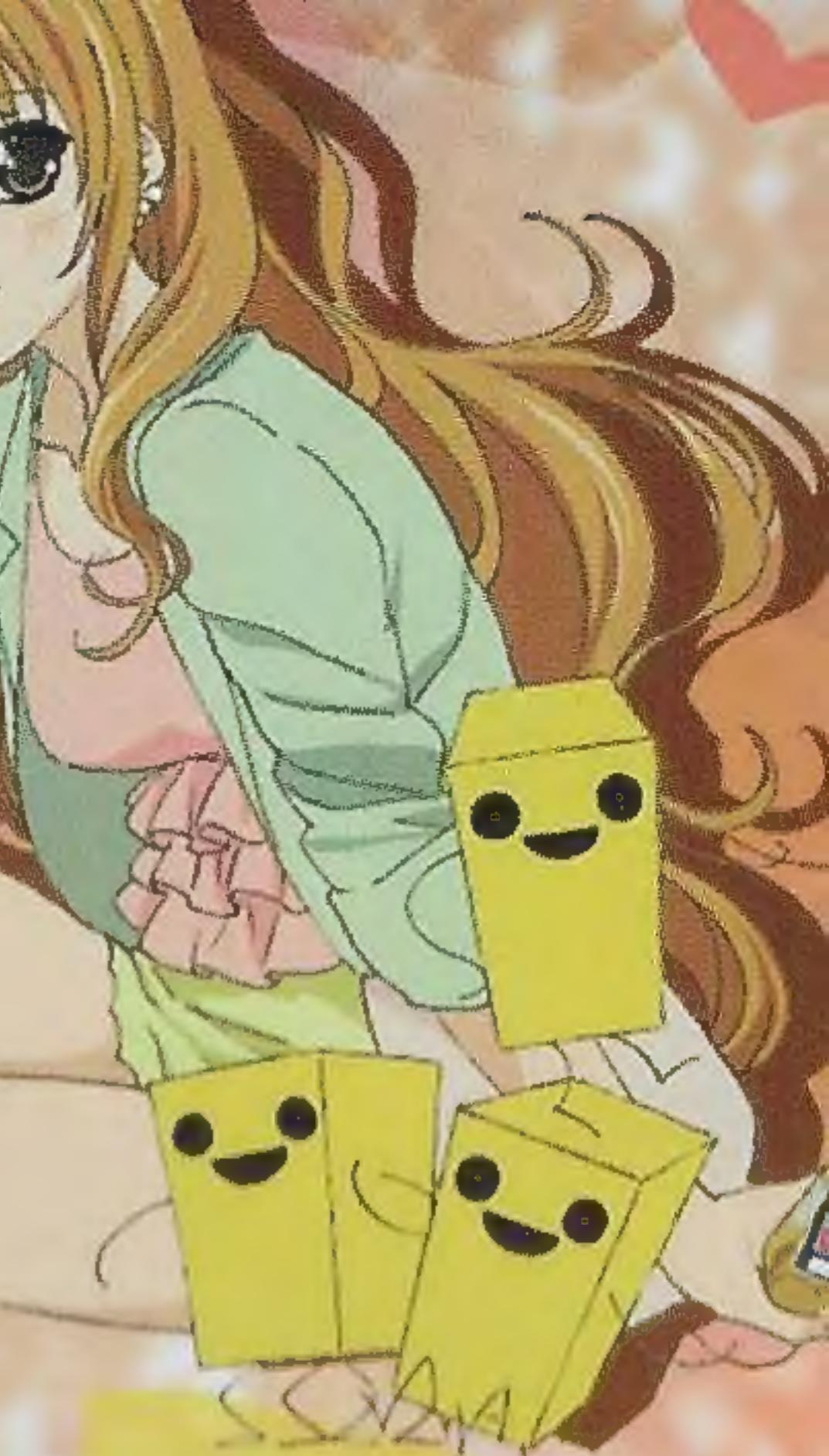


Mike Angelo Aban



Got Requests?
Fanmail to shoutout? Fanart to showoff?
We would love to hear from you!

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 otakuasiaanimemag@gmail.com



Hi Otaku Asia!~
Please feature
Clannad, Lovely Complex and
Kaleidoscope.
Thank you and
God Bless. Yeah!

-Muimui



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Fortified with nutrients and essentials vitamins, Soyfresh is the perfect choice for the family. Available in 5 exciting variants.



written by: Yani

New Rurouni Kenshin Manga Spinoff

Kaworu Kuroski, wife of Nobuhiro Watsuki; the writer of the manga Rurouni Kenshin has revealed the contents of the new Rurouni Kenshin spin-off manga during the Otakon Vegas Panel last January 3. The spin-off manga will be all about enemy characters. She then invited the audience which character they would suggest to have the spotlight in the story. The audience chose Enishi and Yumi.

Rurouni Kenshin manga started in the year 1994 and has released 2 mangas entitled "Rurouni Kenshin" and "Rurouni Kenshin: Restoration". Rurouni Kenshin has been one of the most read and watched anime.

Let's wait and look forward to the new Kenshin manga that will surely have a great and interesting story.



Detective Conan Anime Special

Detective Conan is one of the classic animes that most of us grew up watching as a kid.

It is the story of Shinichi Kudo, a highschool detective who was drugged and was turned into a kid. Keeping his identity under the name: Conan Edogawa, he did not stop him from solving the bizarre cases.



In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the manga, an anime special is currently on the works. It is tentatively titled: "The Disappearance of Conan Edogawa: The Worst Day in History". It will be recounted from the untold story of Conan Edogawa's past.



RWBY WON THE BEST ANIMATED SERIES AT THE IAWTV AWARDS 2014

RWBY is an CG animated web series created and directed by Monty Oum. A story about 4 girls: Ruby Rose, Weiss Schnee, Blake Belladonna and Yang Xiao Long. They attend school at Beacon Academy; a prestigious school where they are trained to become hunters and huntresses. The first season concluded last November 2013, having a total of 16 episodes.

Last January 7, 2014, they won the Best Animated Series category at the International Academy of Web Television Awards.

IAWTV is an annual event that is being held in order to recognize the excellence in the web television production.

RWBY truly deserve the award because of it's great and wonderful story plot and production. Let us wait and look forward for it's season 2!



Last Pretty Cure All Stars New Stage Movie to be released on March 2014

The Pretty Cure All Stars is a movie series that is a crossover among all the Pretty Cure series released. It started in the year 2009 featuring the 4th Pretty Cure series: Fresh Pretty Cure. Every year, they would release a new movie and in each movie, they will feature the latest Pretty Cure series that is ongoing.



For this year's movie, they feature the 9th season Pretty Cure series: Happiness Charge Pretty Cure. The movie is entitled "Pretty Cure All Stars New Stage 3: Eien no Tomodachi". Sakagami Ayumi, EnEn and Geleru will be also making appearance on the last New Stage movie as well.

This Mahou Shoujo movie has been kids favorite starting from their first season: Pretty Cure featuring Nagisa Misumi and Honoka Yukishiro. Let's wait and watch them as they battle different forces of evil.



**REVIEW**

07-GHOST

セブンゴースト

by James

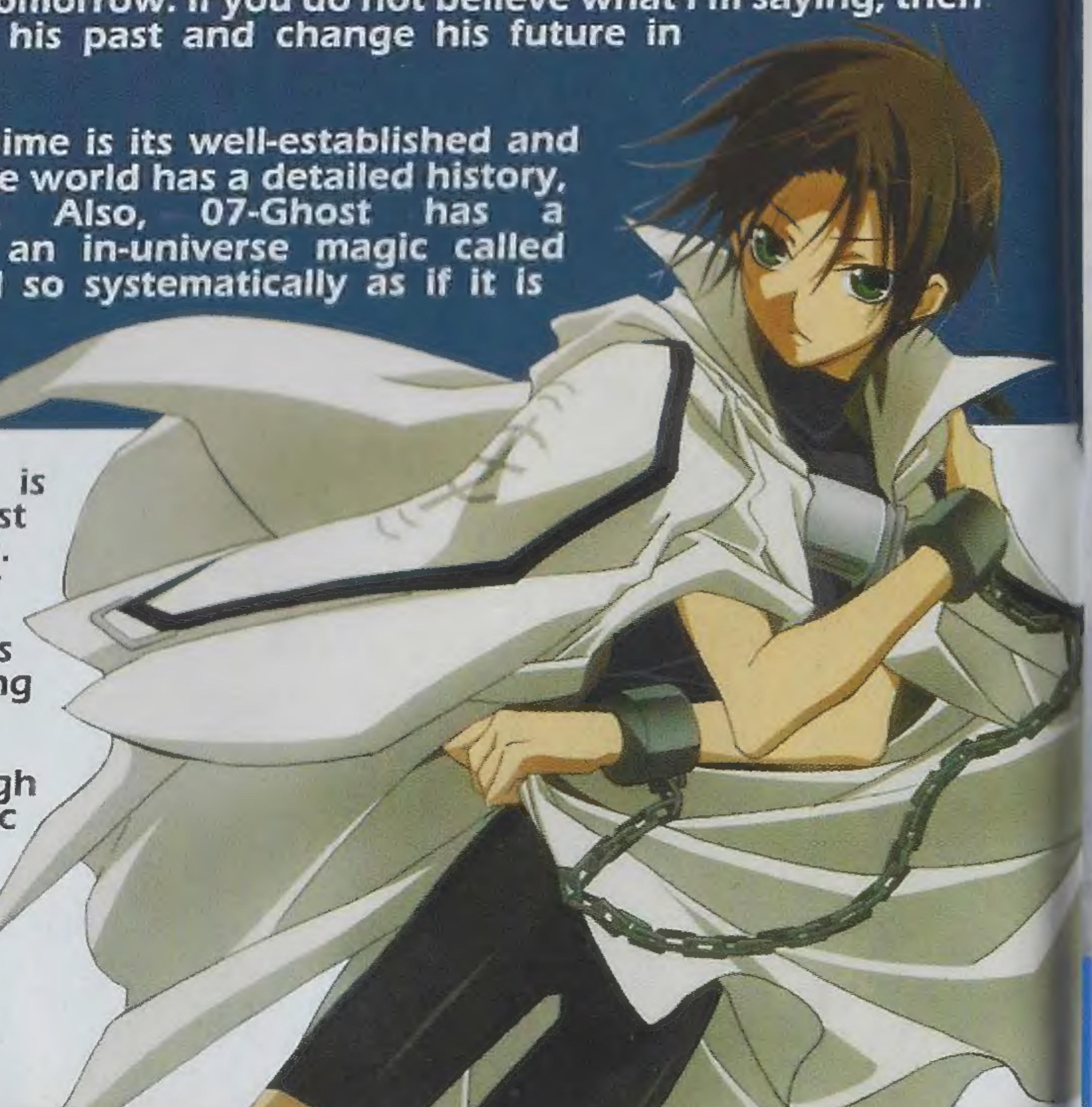
The prestigious Barsburg Military Academy; out 500 students, only 20 graduate and move on to become members of the Barsburg Imperial Military. Among them is Teito Klein. Orphaned and forced to be a slave (a slave child soldier), he has faint memories of his past, until he meets Commander Ayanami. Upon overhearing a conversation in school, Teito realizes that Commander Ayanami was the one who killed his father, so he attacks him. Unfortunately, he was easily thwarted. Thanks to his best friend Mikage, he was able to escape, but not without being seriously injured. Teito is found by the three bishops of the Barsburg Church: Frau, Castor, and Labrador. In the church, he was given sanctuary so that he can rest, recover and finally uncover the truth about his past. But little does Teito know that he is in the middle of something much bigger: an epic battle between the fallen god of death Verloren and the Seven Ghosts – spirits sent by the chief god to seal away Verloren.

The past is an important part of our lives. However, it neither defines who we are nor our future. That's why no matter how dark and muddled it may be, we can always strive for a brighter tomorrow. If you do not believe what I'm saying, then watch Teito Klein uncover his past and change his future in 07-Ghost.

What's admirable in this anime is its well-established and immense fantasy setting. The world has a detailed history, mythology, and culture. Also, 07-Ghost has a well-explained concept of an in-universe magic called "zaiphon", and it is treated so systematically as if it is science in their world.

Another plus for the series is that the very diverse cast affects the tone of the series. Because Teito has a rather dark and brooding backstory, the supporting cast lightens the atmosphere, providing some humor and optimism.

So if you're looking for a high fantasy anime with an epic world, a lot of bishounen. A serious atmosphere with lighthearted moments along the way awaits you in 07-Ghost.

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TRY New NERF Elite Series blasters
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toybox**



The Christmas Toy Fair just became bigger and better. Renamed to **Christmas Toys & Collectibles Fair**, because it has now partnered with Collectibles Unlimited, DC Comics and Toonami. All for the celebration of Superman's 75th anniversary. Thus the event was subtitled, *Celebrating a Season of Heroes*.

A collector also boasted a limited edition Action Comics, Superman's debut in comics released back in June, 1938.

This Toy Fair is also for the benefit of a charity fund-raising and relief drive for the children of Typhoon Yolanda survivors. Anyone can donate to the donation boxes or bid to a toy in the auction where all your money goes to the charity. The higher the bid, the more they get, the better.

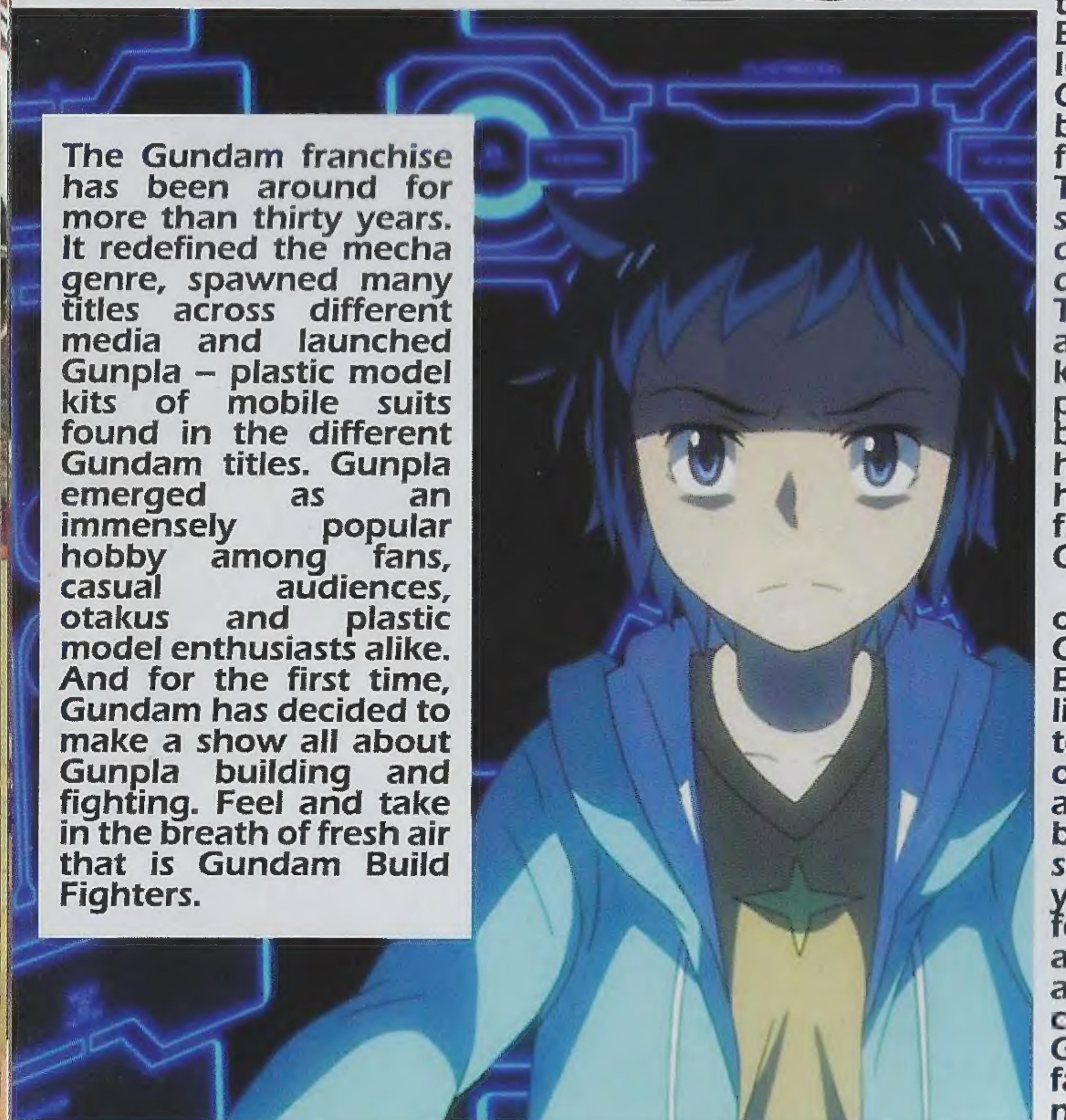
The event featured a major Superman exhibit and live exhibit. There were people in superhero costumes and t-shirts, spreading entertainment, holiday cheer and good cause.

Of course no one should underestimate the otakus. Anime fans were all around buying anime figmas, nendoroids, assorted toys and magazines also available in the event.

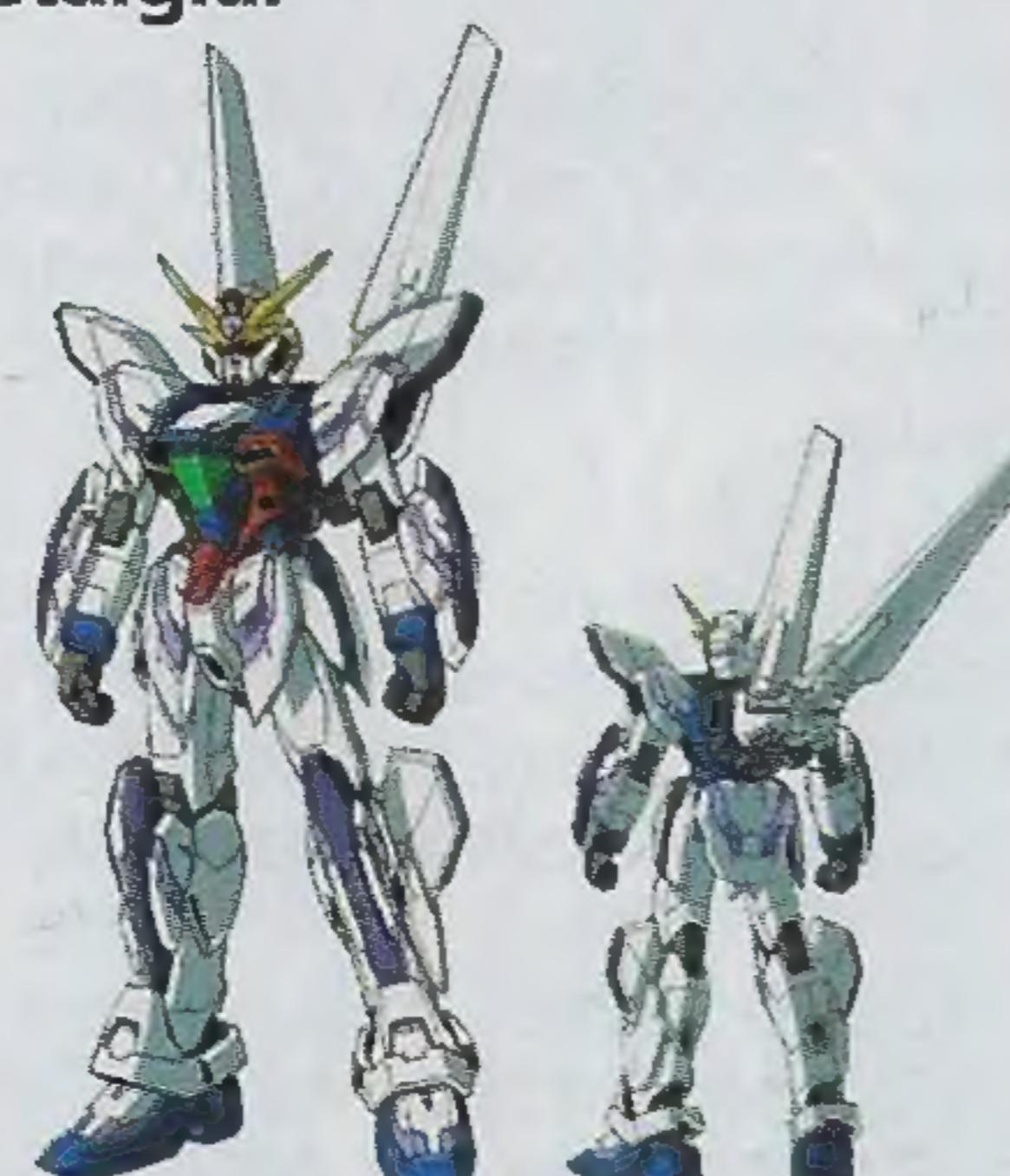
Outside the hall, there were also otakus wearing costumes, taking pictures or just hanging around enjoying the event.



The Gundam franchise has been around for more than thirty years. It redefined the mecha genre, spawned many titles across different media and launched Gunpla – plastic model kits of mobile suits found in the different Gundam titles. Gunpla emerged as an immensely popular hobby among fans, casual audiences, otakus and plastic model enthusiasts alike. And for the first time, Gundam has decided to make a show all about Gunpla building and fighting. Feel and take in the breath of fresh air that is Gundam Build Fighters.



With a new twist, familiar elements, and awesome fight scenes, Gundam Build Fighters is not only a very welcome addition to the wide roster of Gundam titles, it is also proof that the franchise is still one of the best and easily recognized in the mecha genre.



In the future, Gunplas are not just built; they are also pitted against each other in the highly popular Gunpla Battle. Our young hero Sei Iori, a highly talented Gunpla builder, dreams to be a renowned Gundam fighter, just like his father Takeshi. However, after a string of losses, he begins to doubt the chances of his dream ever coming true. Then, just before he gets another loss, a mysterious kid named Reiji appears, pilots his Gunpla on his behalf, and wins. Thus, with his dream reignited, Sei and his newfound friend Reiji fight on to become the best Gundam fighters.

Instead of being centered on war just like the other Gundam titles, Gundam Build Fighters has a more lighthearted and optimistic tone, with exhilarating one-on-one Gundam battles as the main driving force behind the action. While the series easily appeals to a younger fanbase, it also features mobile suit models as well as cameo appearances of other characters from the different Gundam titles, giving older fans that much-expected nostalgia.

Why choose between "health" and "taste"...
when you can have **BOTH**

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Probably one of the youngest yet hardcore cosplayer in our community is only 7 years old. She may still be a kid but she is no new to competitions. Joining cosplay events in and out of the country and winning a number of awards, she is considered the youngest Philippine Cosplay Idol. Ashley is a Community Manager (CM) of Mundo Ko, Game Ko. She is the official model of Cosmic Bytes and she even hosts her own cosplay convention!

Let's get to know more about our cute cosplayer :)



Ashley Misa Ki

Hello Ashley :)
First of all, how
old are you?
7yrs old

How long have you
been cosplaying?
I started last
March 2012,
almost 3 years

Among the many
characters you
already cosplayed,
who are
your favorites?
Gaara, General Lubu
and Garo

How many
conventions do
you think you
have attended
and participated?
More or less 50 times,
plus 2 times in Japan

Knowing that you're
already one of the most
famous Cosplay idols at a
very young age, what
was your most
memorable award won
in a competition?
It was from Ame 1UP 2012
where I won 2 awards,
Best Chibi and Grand
Champion.

What was your favorite
act during a convention?
Who was your
character?
General Lubu from
Dynasty Warriors. I acted
like a real warrior and I
even screamed.

What got you
interested with
cosplaying? Were you
influenced by other
people?
I always love playing
games and watching
anime, then the first time
I saw cosplayers I
thought, "Wow! They're
so cool!". Yes, Ms. Alodia
and Ms. Erika Garbin

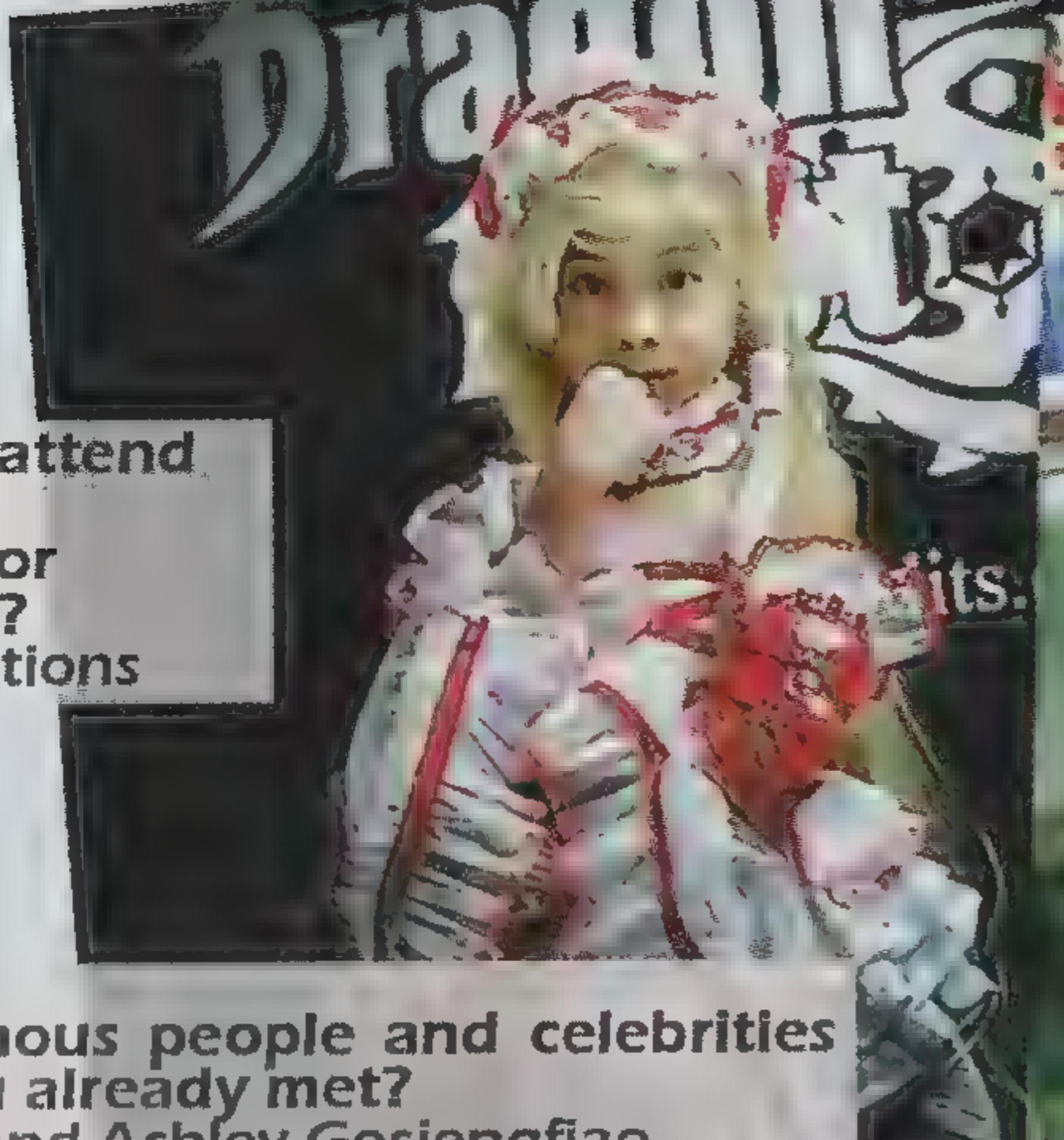
You really have
supportive parents and
friends around you :)
How do you balance
your studying and this
hobby?
Cosplay conventions are
only allowed during
weekends

You have amazing
costumes~! Does your
parents make them or
they have it
made-to-order for you?
Before, we have it
commissioned to others
but now, we make them
ourselves

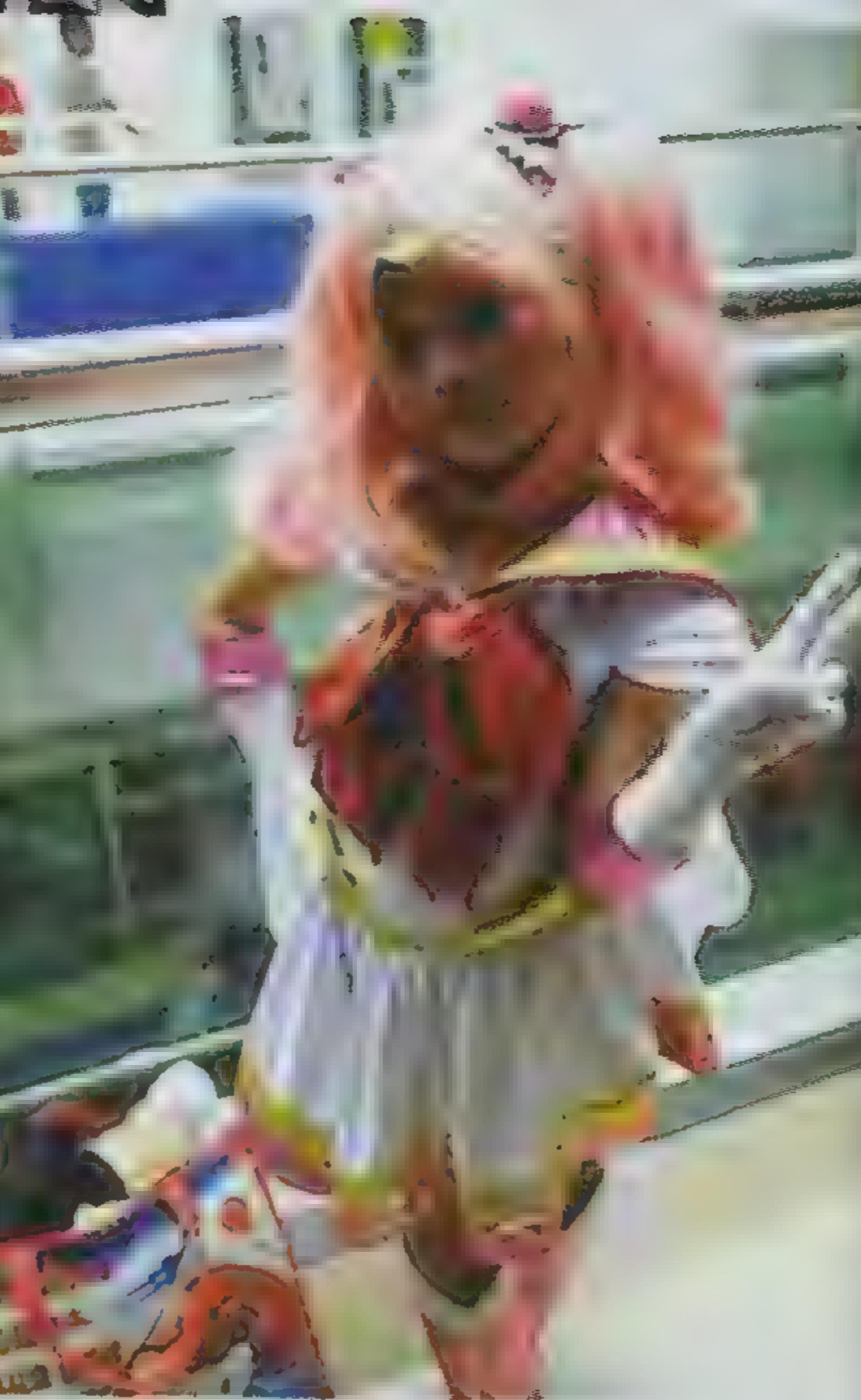
Why do you join
competitions?
To express myself and
to showcase the
talents that I have

Do you personally
choose the
characters
you cosplay?
Yes ...





What do you attend most:
Photoshoots or conventions?
Mostly in conventions



Who are the famous people and celebrities you already met?

Ms. Alodia and Ashley Gosiengfiao

You're still so young. How do you see yourself 10 years from now?
I will be operating an airplane! Hihih~ I want to be a pilot :)



If someone tells you that they love your cosplays, what do you say to them?

"Thank you! This is made by ate Ehka (Devangelic Shop)"



Who are the people you would want to give thanks to?

Thanks so much to the people and groups who supported me :) If it weren't for all of you, I wouldn't be a part of the cosplay world~

To Hero TV, Cosmic Bytes, Devangelic shop, Lean and Mean Machines, Redfox, Dragon Nest Cherry Credits :) To the groups Laguna Cosplay Team, Rizal Cosplayers, Philippine Gaming Cosplay, Naruto Cosplayers and Otaku Dreamer Family :) Also, thank you to ate Erika Garbin, Sochi Haven and Mr. Jerome Mandal for my awesome costumes :)

COSMIC BYTES COSPLAY SHOP

FOR ALL YOUR COSPLAY NEEDS

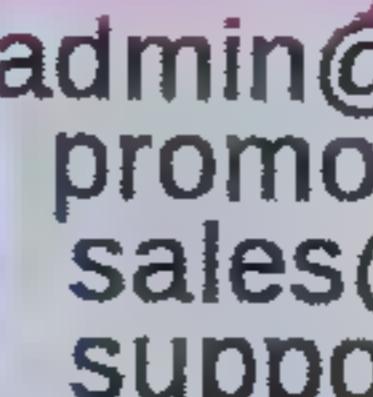
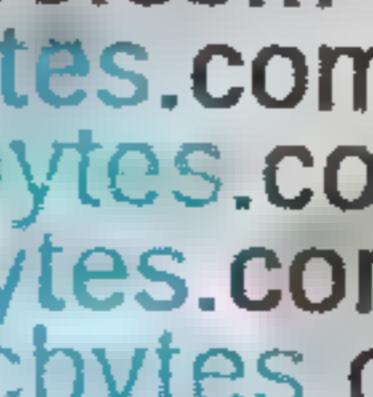
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~Kucos
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OTAKU LIFE HACKS

SUBSONIC FORGE

Where close enough is not enough

Ever wanted to try making your own props for your cosplay but you don't know what materials to use? Worry no more! For the master of propsmaking is here to help!

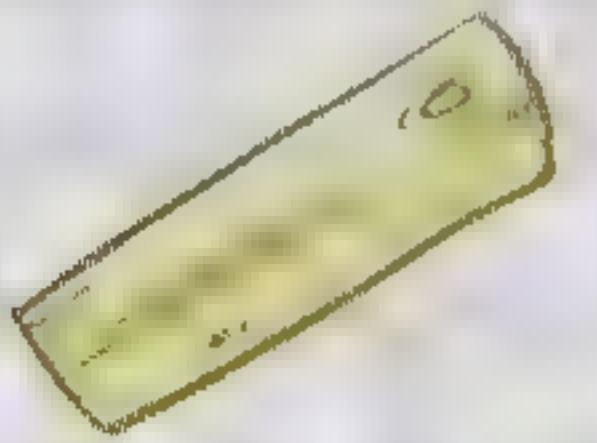
SUBSONIC FORGE, maker of the most sought-after crafts/props in the Philippines cosplay industry, is here to give us tips with our crafting quest~ SO, **LET'S LEARN THE BASIC MATERIALS FIRST...HERE WE GO!**

BASIC MATERIALS

Wood

Used as the core or backbone of your prop or as the main material itself.

- + Very durable and ideal for details
- Heavy



Rubber Foam/Sheet/Mats

Most commonly used material in the local cosplay world.

- + Durable and light
- + Comes in different shapes, colors, sizes, thickness and texture
- + It can be heat molded
- + Available at hardware and shoe supply stores

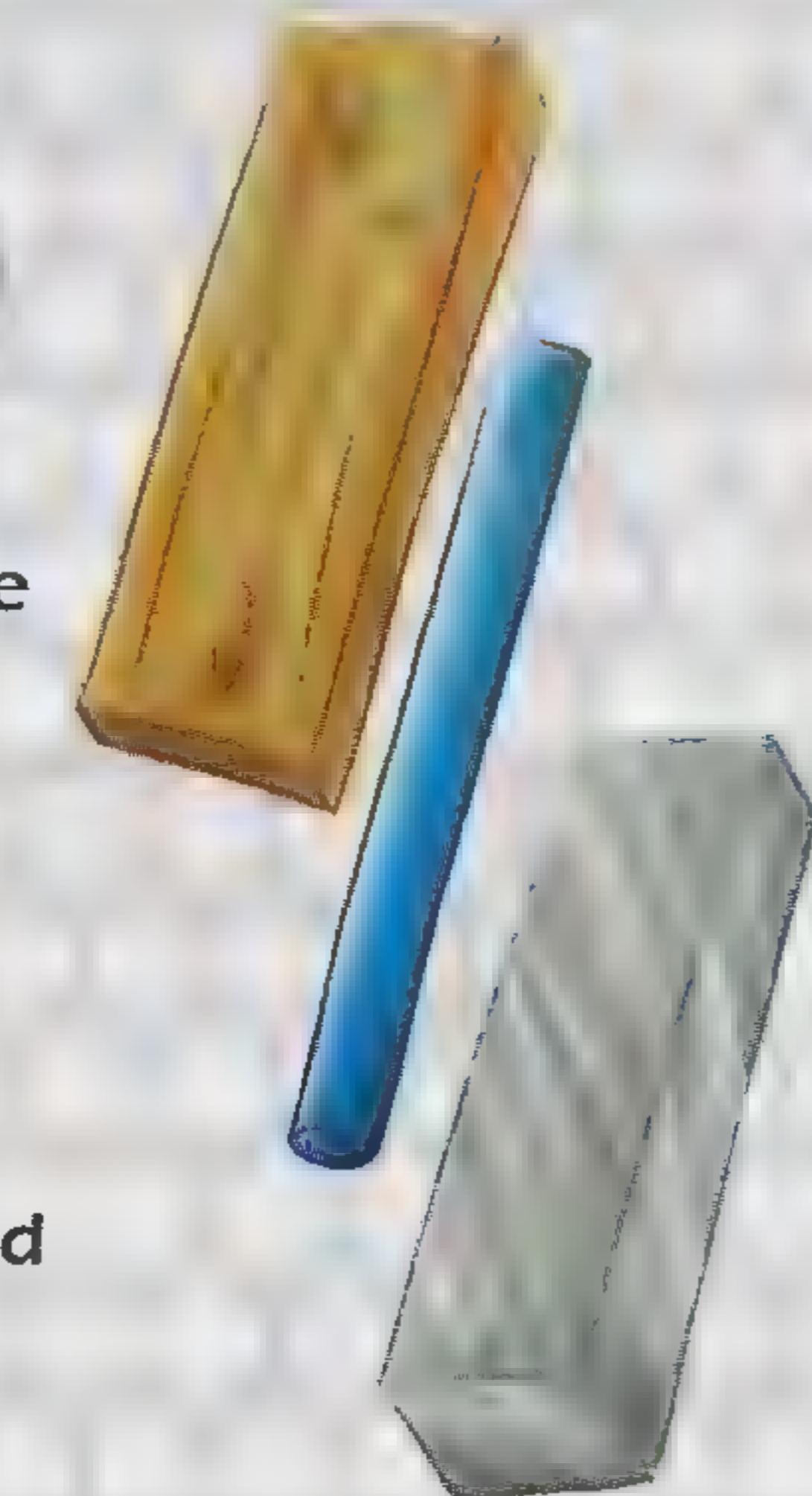


Paper & Cardboards

- + Good for beginners and hobbyists with or without experience
- + Paper craft, tutorials and printables are available on the internet
- + Also used for sculpting and papermache arts

Plastics

Plexiglass, polystyrene sheets, PVC sheets. Most of them are thermoplastics which can be heat formed and molded.



For the BASE (for sword, lance, etc.)

Wood

- + Hard and sturdy
- Can break to stress and force
- Heavy

PVC

- + Readily available, cheap, durable, flexible

Metal

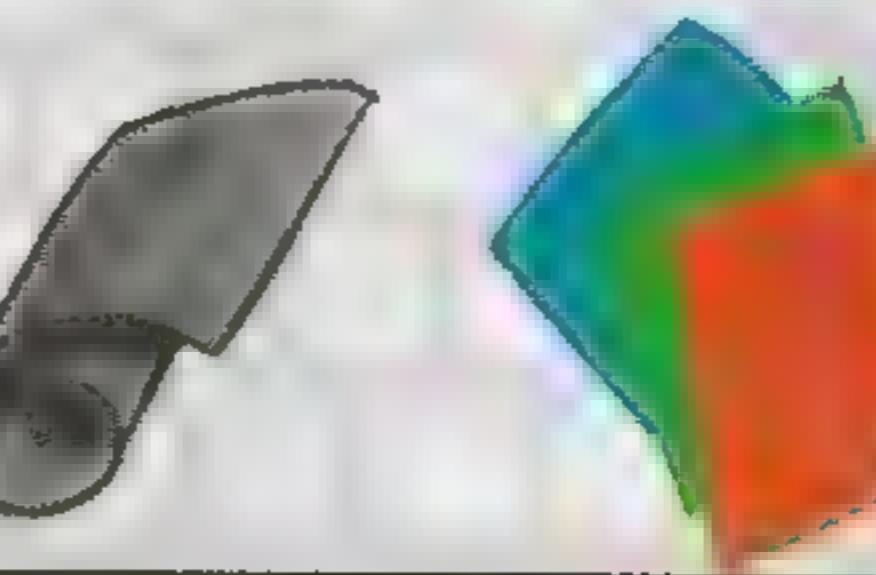
- + Strong
- + Choose between heavy solid or light hollow

I do not recommend metal cores since they are heavy and expensive compared to others. Metals are usually not allowed in event areas with tight securities.



For Crafting details

Rubbersheet and Craft foams



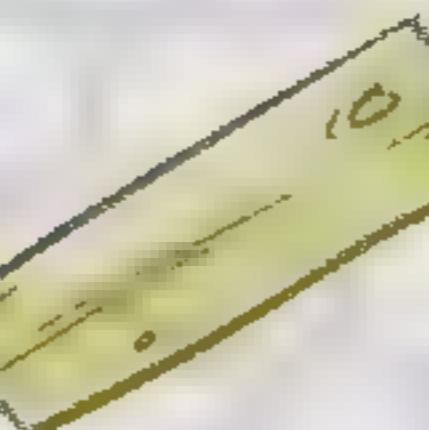
Can be done in layer by layer or in a whole 3D hollow part. Different thickness and patterned sheets give more details and style.
Sanding rubber makes a rough furry texture. Heating it with fire or a heat gun will flatten it out.

Paper/Papermache



Ideal for those hard to do 3D details or sculptured designs Bits of paper soaked in glue, cover the surface in layers

Wood



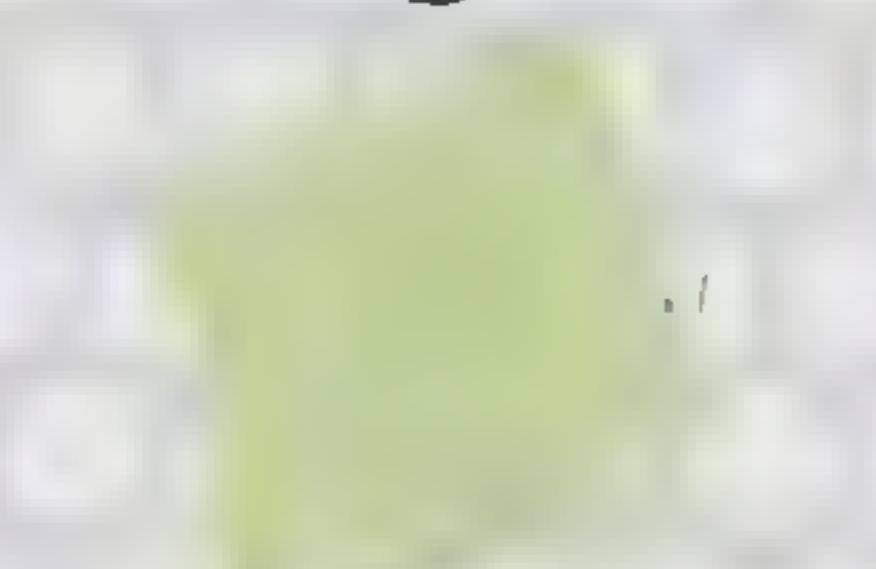
Can also be used in layers to achieve details. Sanding, pressing and burning details on the wood can be done. *wood differ from one another so what you do on narra will be different on oak.

Metal



Metal are only to be used in details or sparingly since it is heavy. Things like nuts, bolts, screws, rivets, rings, chains and other items that look closest to the intended design.

Fiberglass



Fiber glass requires a lot of work and time to use and is quite expensive. It's done in 2 parts the glass fiber mats and the resin. The resin is mixed with a hardener and applied on to the surface of the object, then the fiber glass mats are placed on top while more resin is applied. More layers mean more strength. Detailing with fiberglass is done by placing the fibers on top of a pre-made detail or done in a negative mold.

Acrylic board/Plexiglass



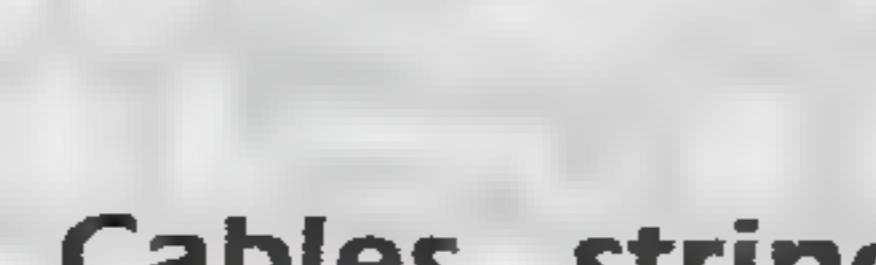
Usually used in large signages, displays, enclosures and more. Also a thermoplastic that can be formed and molded to a shape.

Polymer clay



Comes in different colors and consistencies. Very easy to shape, sculpt, carve and detail. Clay maintains its shape when baked in an oven to fully cure and harden. Available at some art supply stores.

Styrofoam



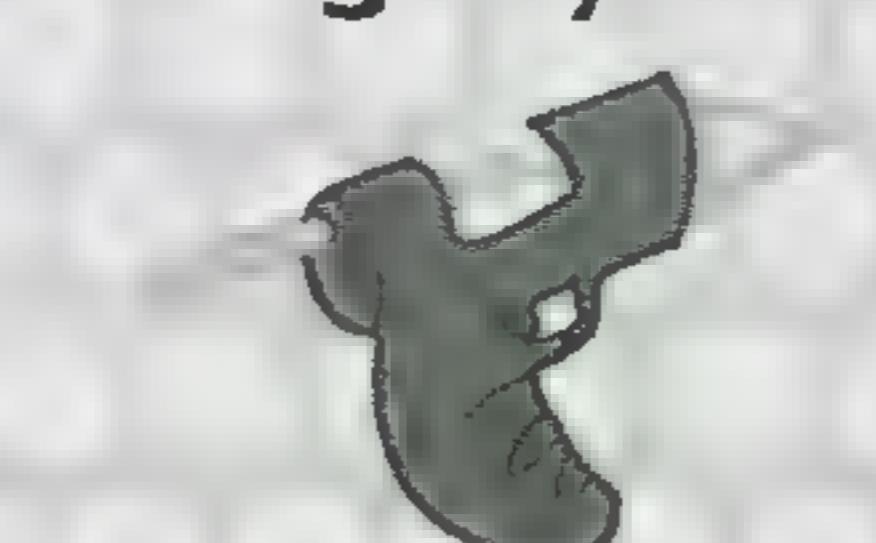
Parts can easily break and chip off. Do not use lacquer type paints since it will dissolve the material.

Cables, string and ropes



Used for linear details and linings. Paint them before attaching or glueing in to place.

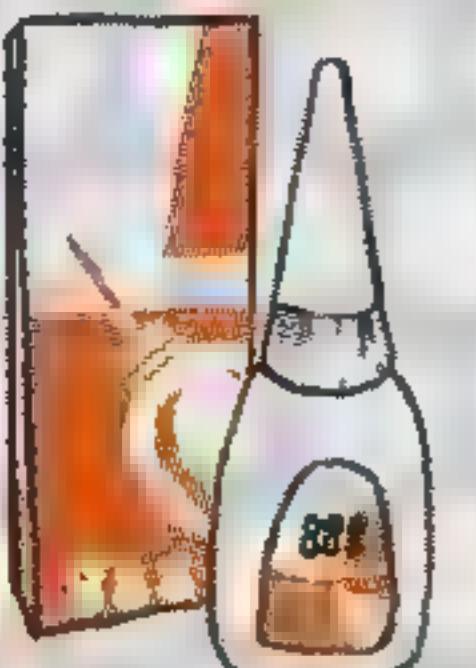
Hot glue/Glue gun



Also used for more organic and freestyle details since it is hard to make a consistent flow of glue from the gun thus making uneven details.

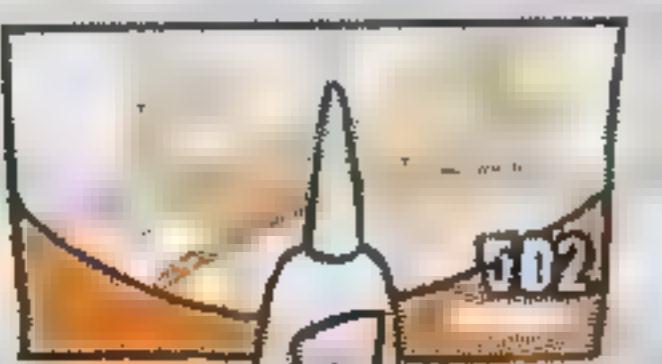
ADHESIVES

888 super glue "Greco" and "Evotite"



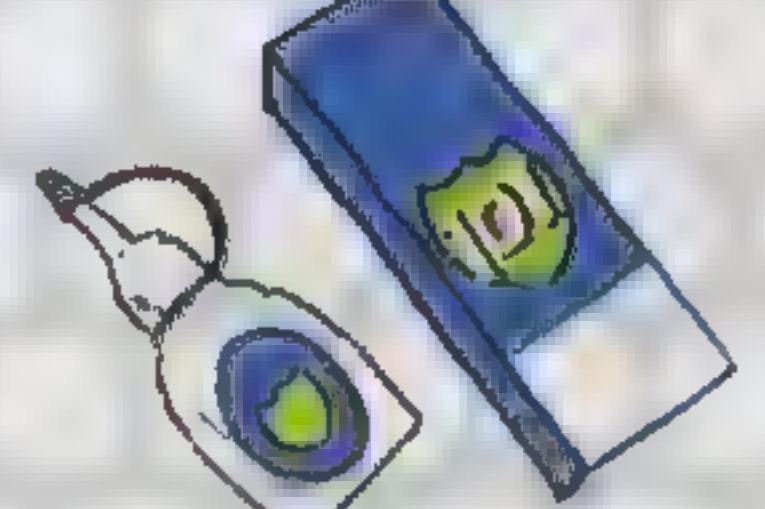
- + Widely known and most commonly used in the cosplay and shoe industry
- + It sets and dry fast (2 secs) when applied most of the time
- You wont have enough time to attach or adjust the parts
- Hot and dangerous. Burns skin and some surfaces

502 super glue



- + Common in most retail stores and in DIVI
- * I prefer this glue since it dries and sets at around 5-10 secs giving you enough time to set and align the parts to be glued.

101 super glue



This type is quite rare and a lot of users say it's useless since it takes around a minute for it to set and dry.

- * I found a great purpose for this kind of glue since it dries and sets longer, does not bubble up or boil and is smooth, clear and almost polished when cured.

Contact rubber cement



Also known as 'Rugby'

- + Can be used for large surfaces to glue together
- + Good for cloth to rubber, rubber to wood, cloth to wood

Hot glue

- + Quick and easy to use
- Can be messy
- The heat can sometimes deform the materials to be glued

TRICKn'TIPS

Always use sharp blade tips for a clean cut



- Super glue reacts to rubbers making it dry and set faster.
- Pouring another layer of Super glue over parts that already have been glued or have some glue on it will dry longer.
- Remove or sand off any dried super glue when gluing or re-gluing new parts together.
- Take note when cutting parts, if you started inside, in the middle or outside the drawn line.
- Sand off the sides of the materials with sand paper to give some extra detail and a cleaner and non-boxy look.
- Proportion of the prop to the wearer or wielder is very important. Over sized or undersized does not look good.

Now that you know the basics, why not try making your own props! Still not ready?

Then go to their page and ask **SUBSONIC FORGE**
to lend you a hand!

Where the aHigh-Quality craftsmanship always meets the expectation of their clients. What are you waiting for? Get your weapons FORGED!

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Contact#:
0922-468-9696

The collage includes several images: a man in a white shirt working on a prop; a close-up of a sword; a QR code; a character in a yellow and black costume; a character in a red and white costume; a character in a purple and black costume; a character in a green and yellow costume; and a character in a blue and white costume.



LOKAL TAKU

By Mikelle

BLUE BUSTAMANTE

Japan has a wide variety of famous Sentai like Bioman and Kamen Rider while the US adopted the culture which resulted to show like the Power Rangers. Since then, the superhero team or the super sentai culture became a great boom and provided our childhoods with dreams and aspirations, but who says that our country doesn't have a sentai hero of our own?

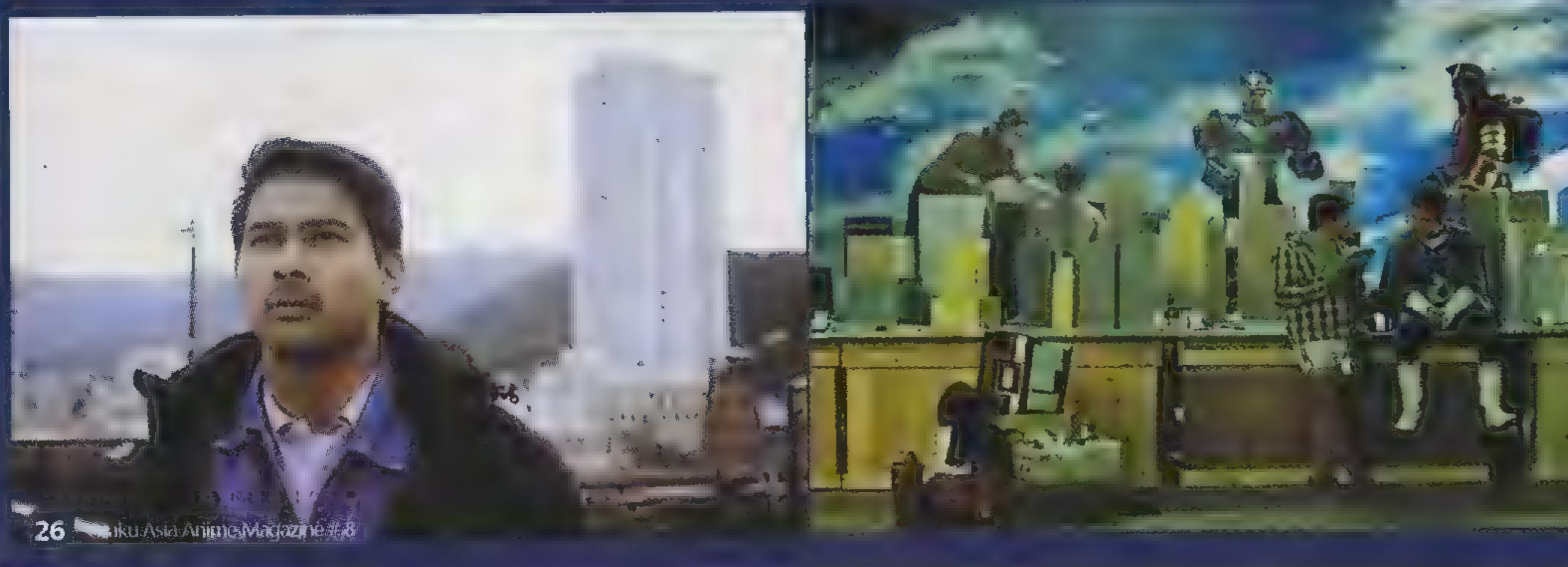
Set in the 90's, George Bustamante is a loving husband and dedicated father to his family gathered his resolve and decided to work overseas in Japan in order to provide a living for his beloved family. Everything seems honky dory until things turned out for the worse, he lost his job shortly after arriving in Japan. With the warmth of his family as his motivation, he refuses to return home empty-handed and decides to take on a new job. Due to a little twist of fate, he ended up landing a very odd job with the help of his friend Roger Grace. George became a stuntman for a character in a Sentai series named Blue Force.

George decided to continue his work while keeping it a secret from his family. Little does his son know is that the superhero he watches and admires happens to be his own father. Can this OFW continue to keep this secret, or will he eventually come to terms with his new job so that he may uphold his priorities as husband and father?



Blue Bustamante is a Filipino father and son comedy-drama-superhero film produced by Punch Kick productions and is a part of Cinema One Originals. It is based on the Super Sentai culture that was popularized in Japan and is also adapted in western cultures. The show features George, an OFW that has his life turned upside down and ended up taking an odd job that includes wearing a spandex. He is starring in the fictional sentai show called Force Five to earn a living while keeping it a secret to his family.

The film's comedy-drama as well as its concept provides an impressive entertainment that is specially made for Filipinos around the globe especially for those who are fans of super hero shows. The show doesn't only aim for young viewers, but also to those who grew up admiring the culture. If you want to rekindle your childhood dreams and passion, look out for this new hero in town, Blue Bustamante!



Tuscano

ITALIAN WOOD OVEN PIZZA

Tuscano restaurant brings you the best authentic Italian rustic pizza and great simple Italian food. Experience Italy and indulge in Tuscano's Wood Oven Gourmet Pizza. Specially made by the finest Italian Chefs!



Grandma's Roasted Garlic-Lemon Chicken



Char-Grilled Bistecca Tuscan Style

Our signature comes with fresh ingredients, premium cheese, authentic sauce and traditional handmade dough. Tuscano came from the word Tuscany, which is a place in Italy known for using fresh ingredients and cooking their food in the traditional way.

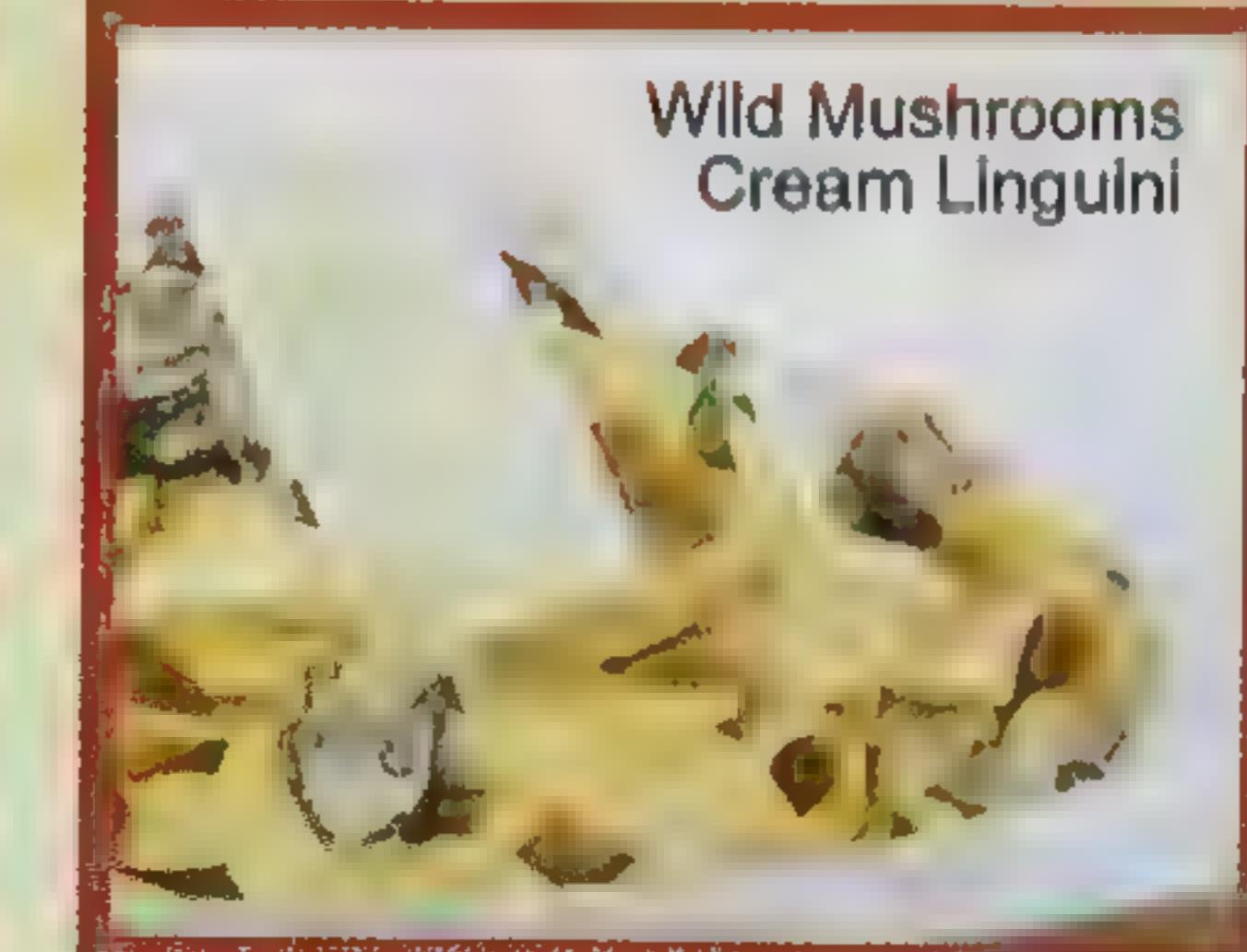
Try their bestsellers: Margherita and Goat Cheese Pizza, Spicy Gamberetti Angel Hair Spaghetti and Beef Stew Casserole with Chocolate.



Margherita & Goat Cheese Pizza



Asparagus & Egg Pizza



Wild Mushrooms Cream Linguini



Spicy Gamberetti Angel Hair Spaghetti

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CON-IN FOCUS ANIME FESTIVAL ASIA 13

written by: Ann



A day is simply not enough to contain all the fun and surprises for otakus, so Anime Festival Asia (AFA) decided why not a convention in Singapore for three days?

From November 8 to 10, AFA was held at the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre where guests were able to enjoy booths left and right inside the exhibit area. From merchandise to autograph booths, as well as Maid and Butler Cafe, and Manga Festival, guests enjoyed every bit of what AFA had to offer. One of the highlights of the exhibit is the Attack on Titan's life-sized Titan Head.



From Day 1 to Day 3, guests flooded the area for the performances on the main stage such as the movie screening of Gintama Final Movie; anime showcase of Little Witch Academia, Psycho-Pass, Sword Art Online, Love Live! School Idol Project, Attack on Titan, Valvrave, Noragami, and Starchild featuring Coppelion, Hozuki no Reitetsu and Knights of

Sidonia; and WOW Japan by AFA Channel Music showcasing Prizmmy. I LOVE ANISONG Concert was also a sight to behold with the performances of EGOIST, livetune, Hachioji P, matsu X DJ KAYA, Valerie, Eir Aoi, LiSA, Milky Holmes, May'n, angela, and ELISA, plus T.M. Revolution and Nana Mizuki for Valvrave Night on the last day.

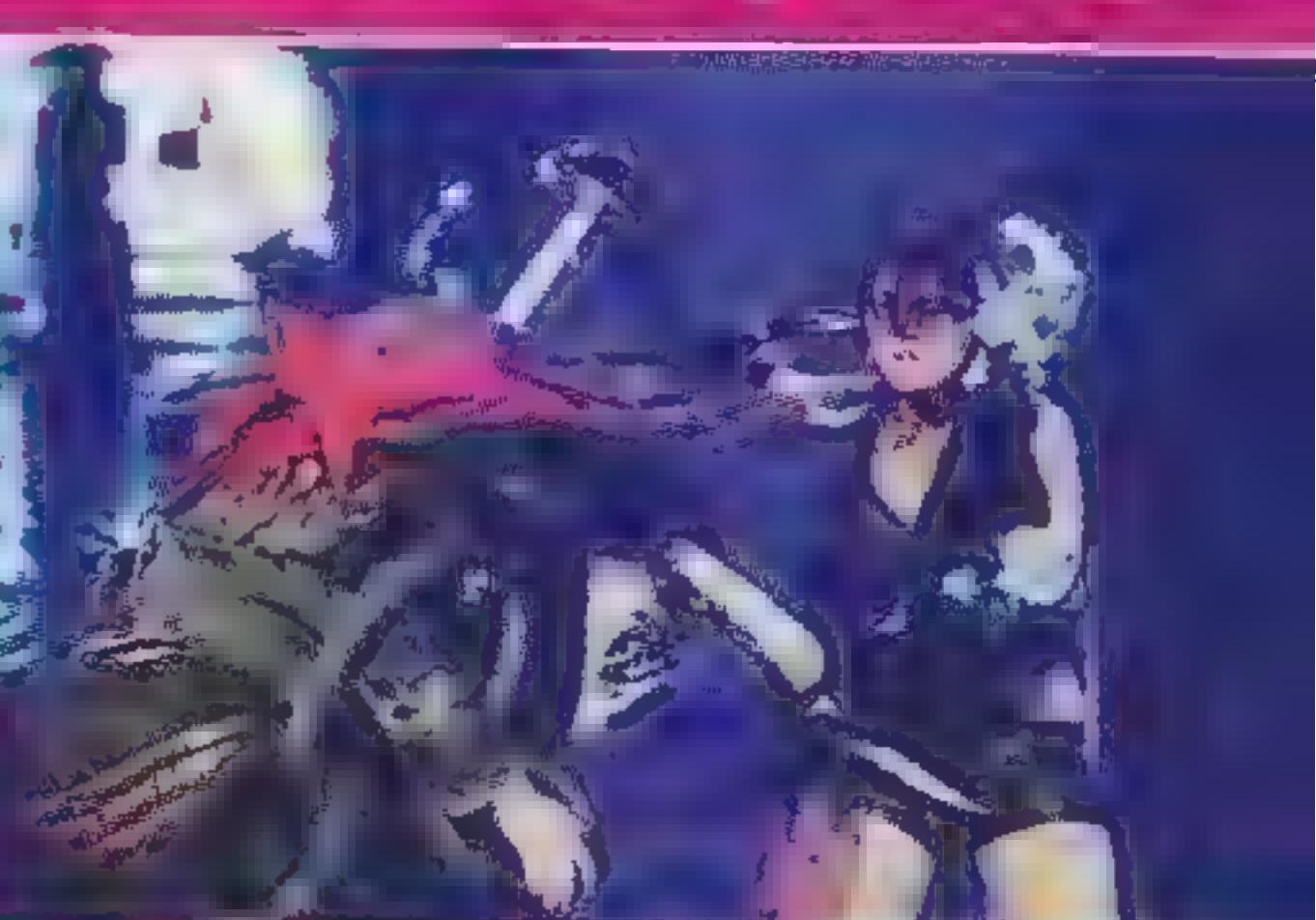
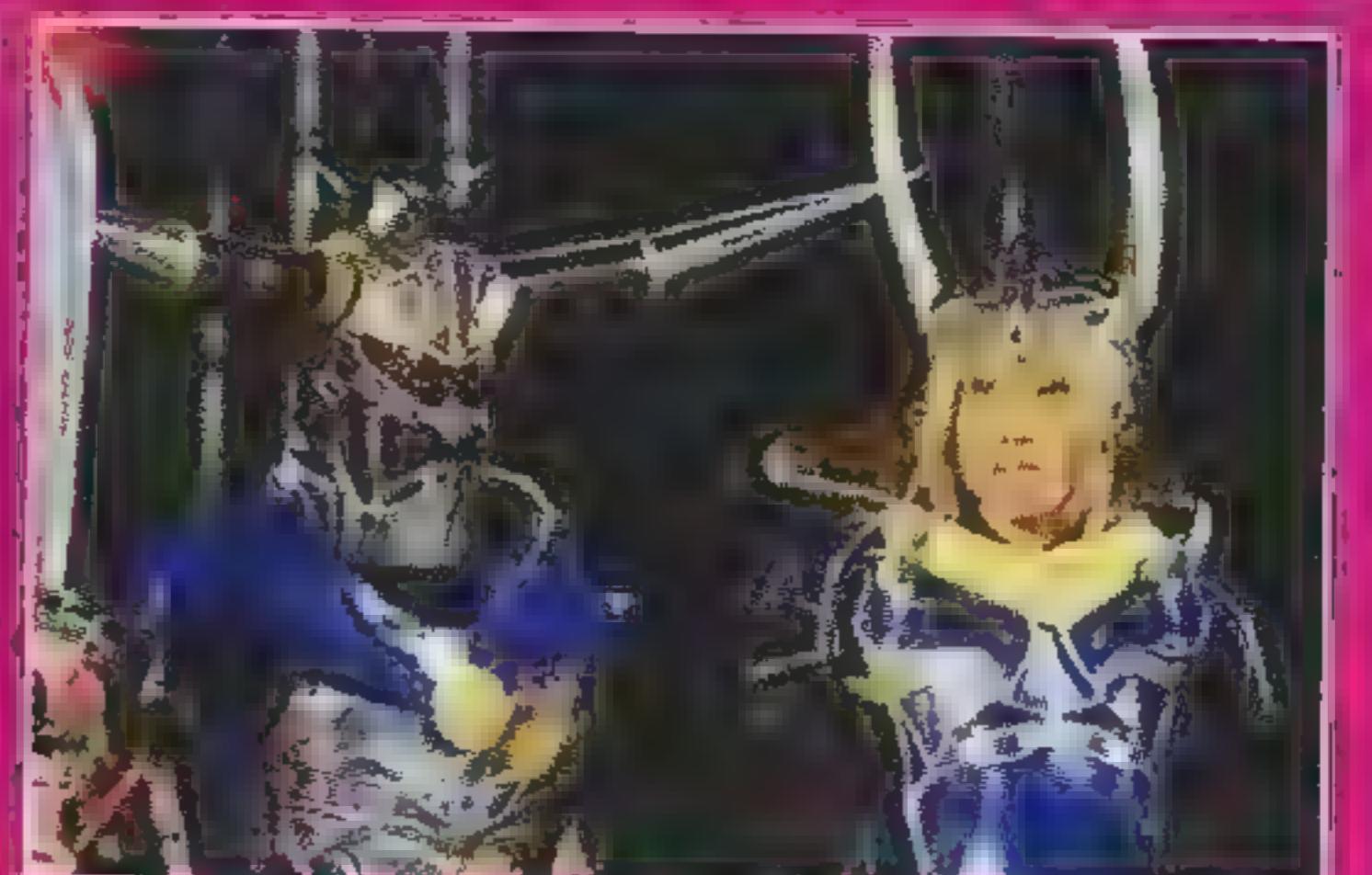


Photos courtesy to the respective owners: Jeremy Long, Brian Rodelas, Jene Kirishima & facebook.com/animefestivalasia



Meanwhile, on the mini stage were guest appearances of Cocolo-chan; Asia Kawaii Way's special feature of 217, Alodia, Miume and Tenchimu; and VIV KIMI Talk with Toby Mascot. Artistes such as Valerie, Ayaka Ohashi, and Azusa Tadokoro were also present to grace the event. Also included were showcases of BABYMETAL, Itowokashi, Microsoft, and MARBLE WONDERLAND by Asia Kawaii Way for Fashion. There were also Canon Photo Moments with Onnies, Hana & Baozi, Clive, Natumi, plus Autograph Sessions with Angie, Ying Tze, and Reika; Space Dandy Special Segment by Animax; Cosplay Singles Competition; WOW Japan Marathon; and Team Vietnam's Cosplay Special Segment.

Aside from all these heart-pounding performances was the AFA Regional Cosplay Championship (ARCC) Grand Finals with contestants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam.



Indonesia

From D'Bronz of Indonesia, Wijaya Wijaya and Rian Cahyadi who cosplayed as Samuel and Raiden from the game Metal Gear Rising were declared as champions, while Philippines' Rommil Donaire, Jr. and Krislyn Branzuela cosplayed as Dylan and Hrist Valkyries from the game Valkyrie Profile 2: Silmeria and placed as a runner-up, and Jovi Lum and Tessie Tan from Singapore who cosplayed as True Orge and Zafina from the game Tekken won as second runner-up.

Philippines

Some of our friends who were with Cosplay Network Philippines (CNPH) went to the event and shared their experience during the AFA 2013. Brian Rodelas, Jene Kirishima and Faye Liper all agreed that the best parts of their AFA experience were meeting international cosplayers, guests and photographers; getting goodies and freebies; and of course, the well-organized event. Brian also mentioned that he liked the I LOVE ANISONG Concert of LiSA and Aoi Eri. They're already even planning their next AFA! If Brian's expecting to see LiSA again and more Pop artists like Scandal, One OK Rock, and agreeing with Jene's suggestion of Supercell, Faye, on the other hand, wants to see Yui of Japan.

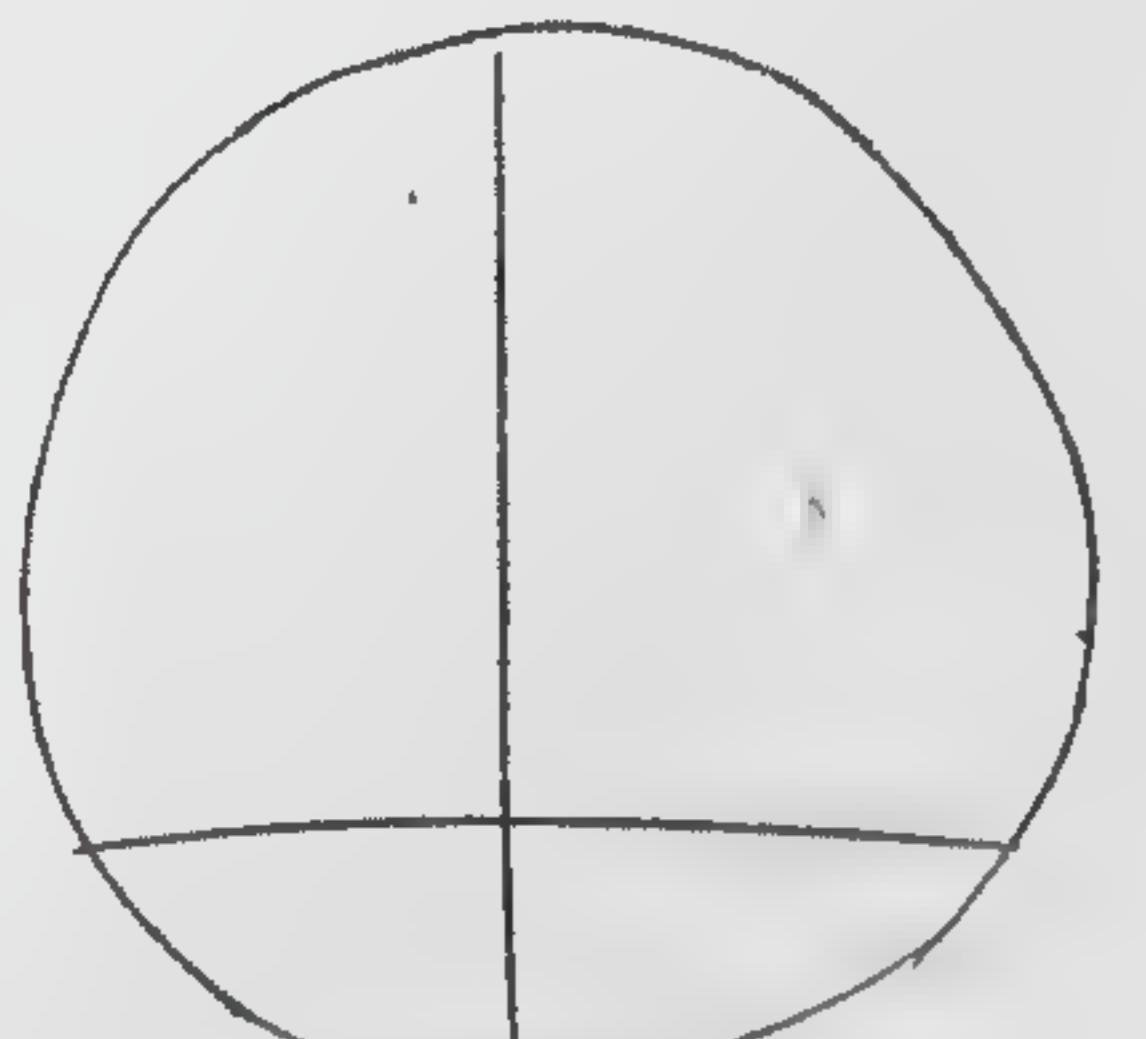


If these folks had a blast in AFA 2013 in Singapore, start crossing your fingers for AFA Philippines!

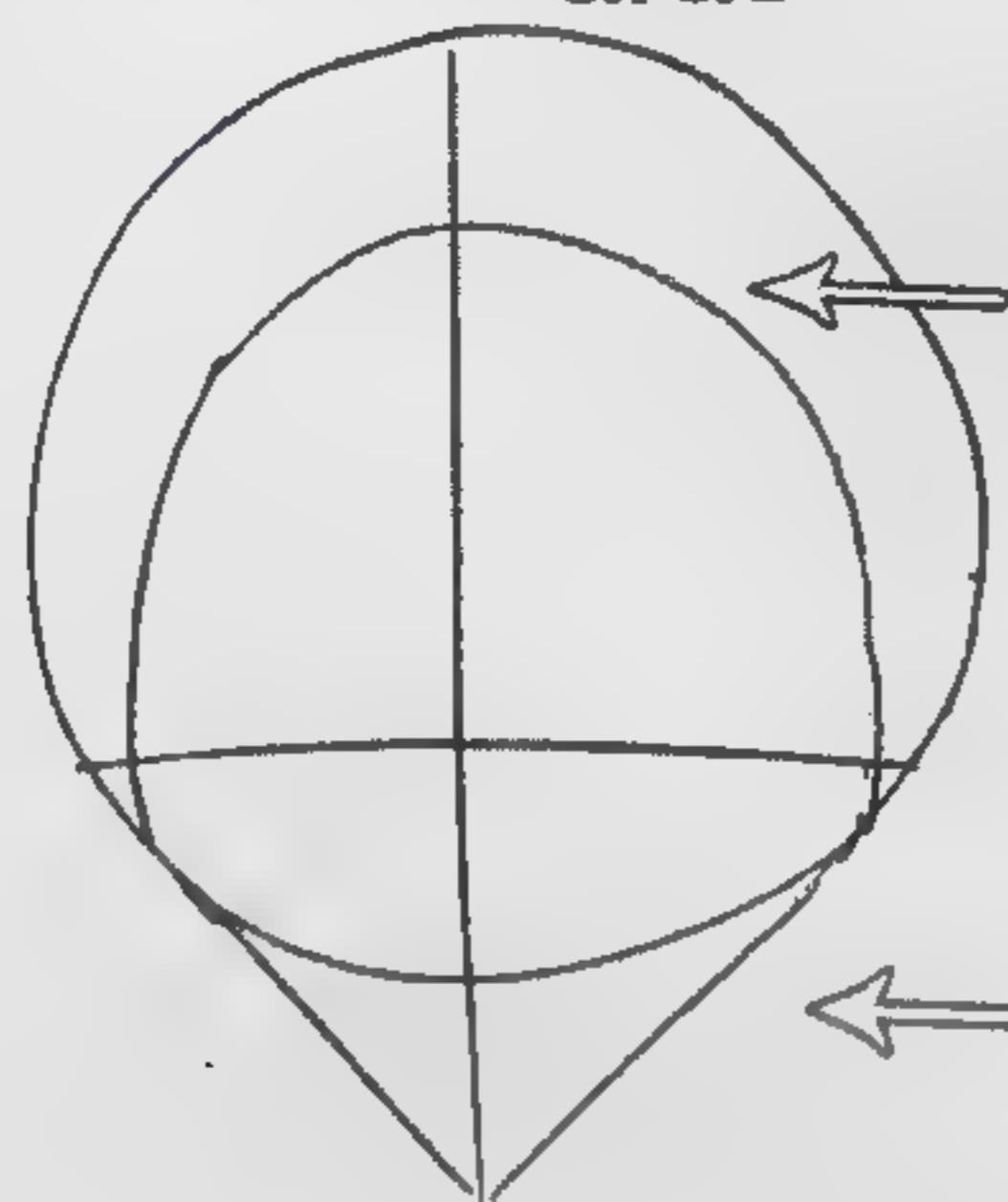


1. Draw a circle and the Cross Lines*

Cross lines help you on where to put the eyes, nose, and ears of the character



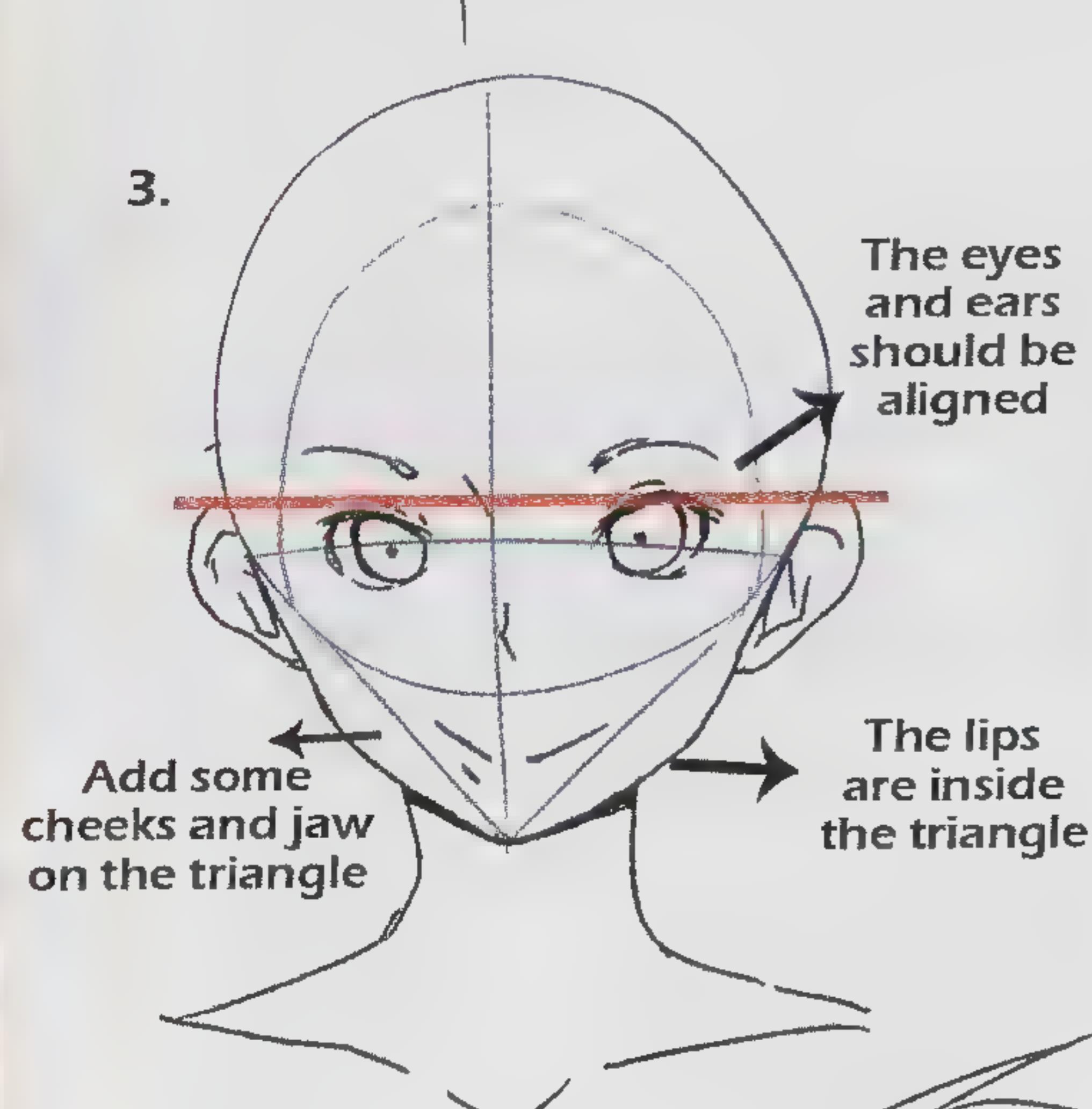
2. Draw a triangle below and a half oval in inside the circle



The half oval inside the circle helps on where to put the bangs of the character

The triangle will help you on the shape of your character's face.

3.



The eyes and ears should be aligned

The lips are inside the triangle

4. Generally, the hair moves in different directions.

Most heads will have a natural part that is found by brushing the hair.

Use the half oval to put the bangs.



5.

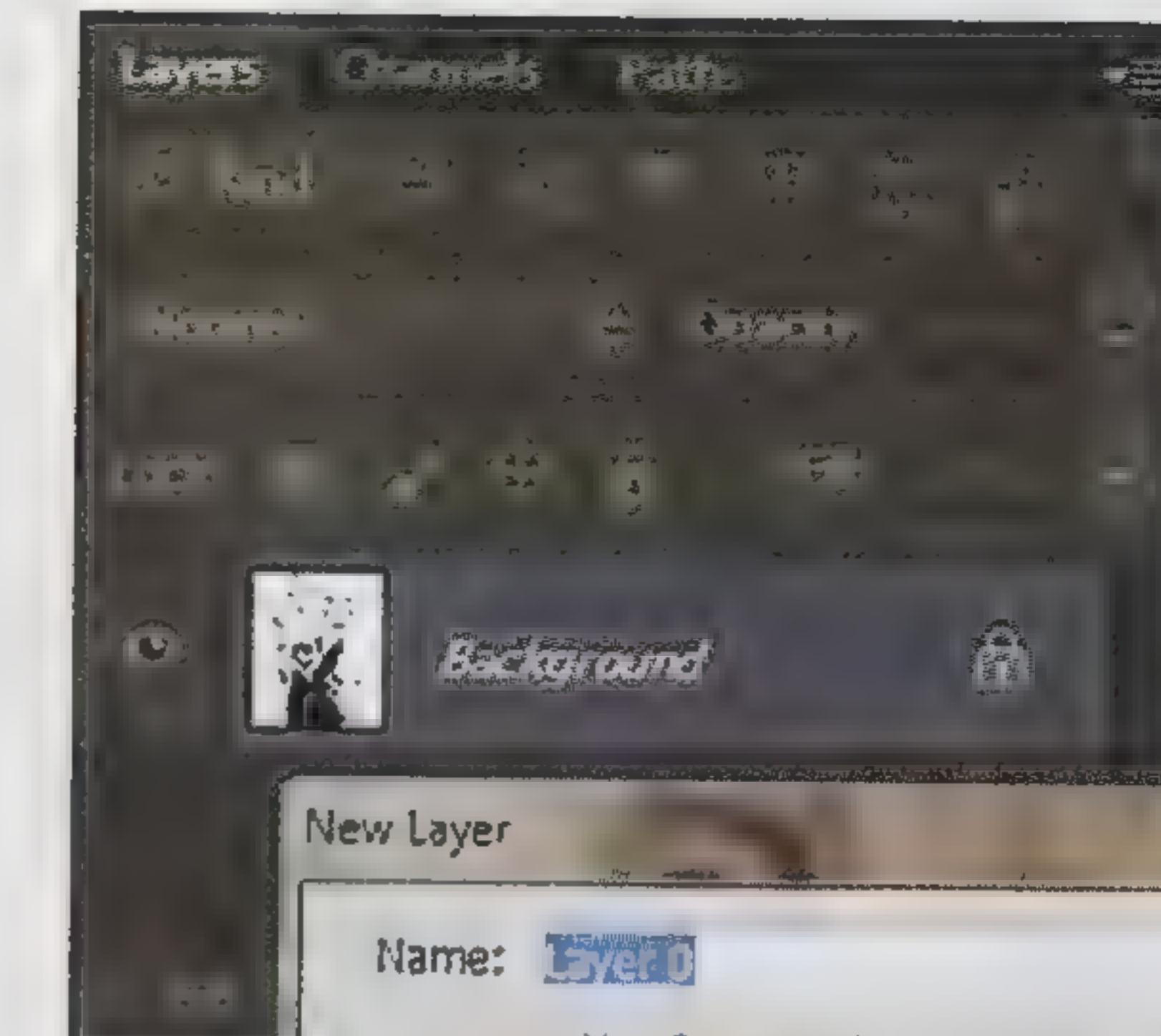
Lastly, erase the guidelines and you now have your anime-style face!

Color it or leave it as is, it's your artwork and it'll turn better and better every time you draw.

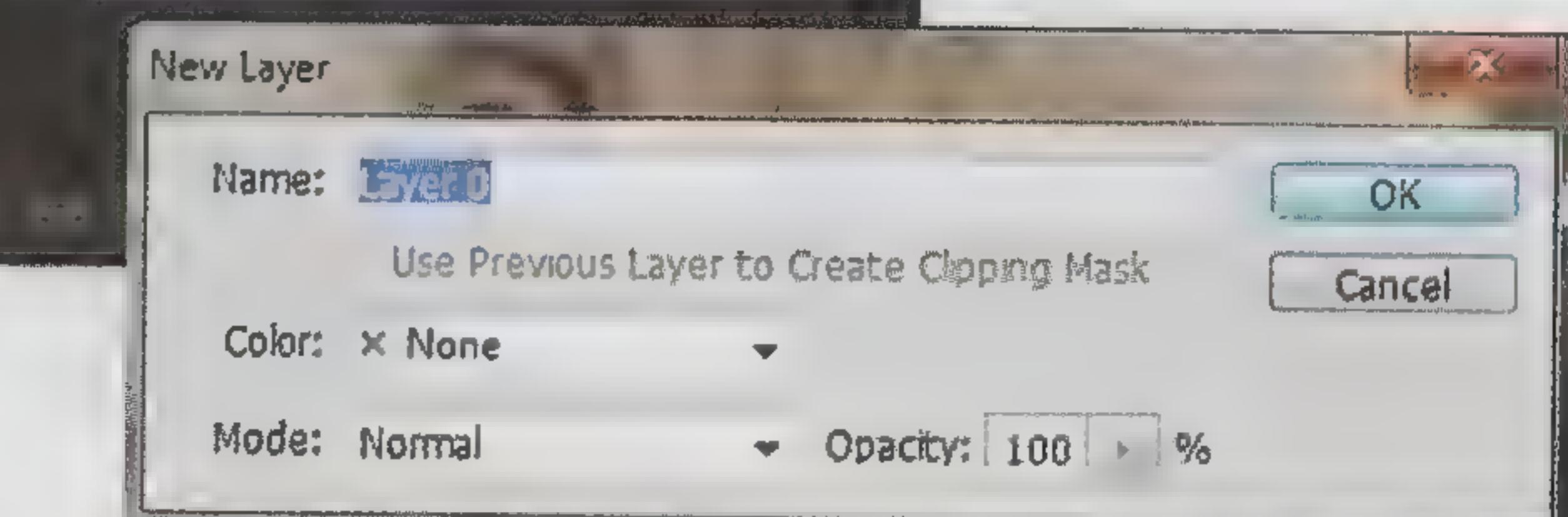


How to Draw Anime Face

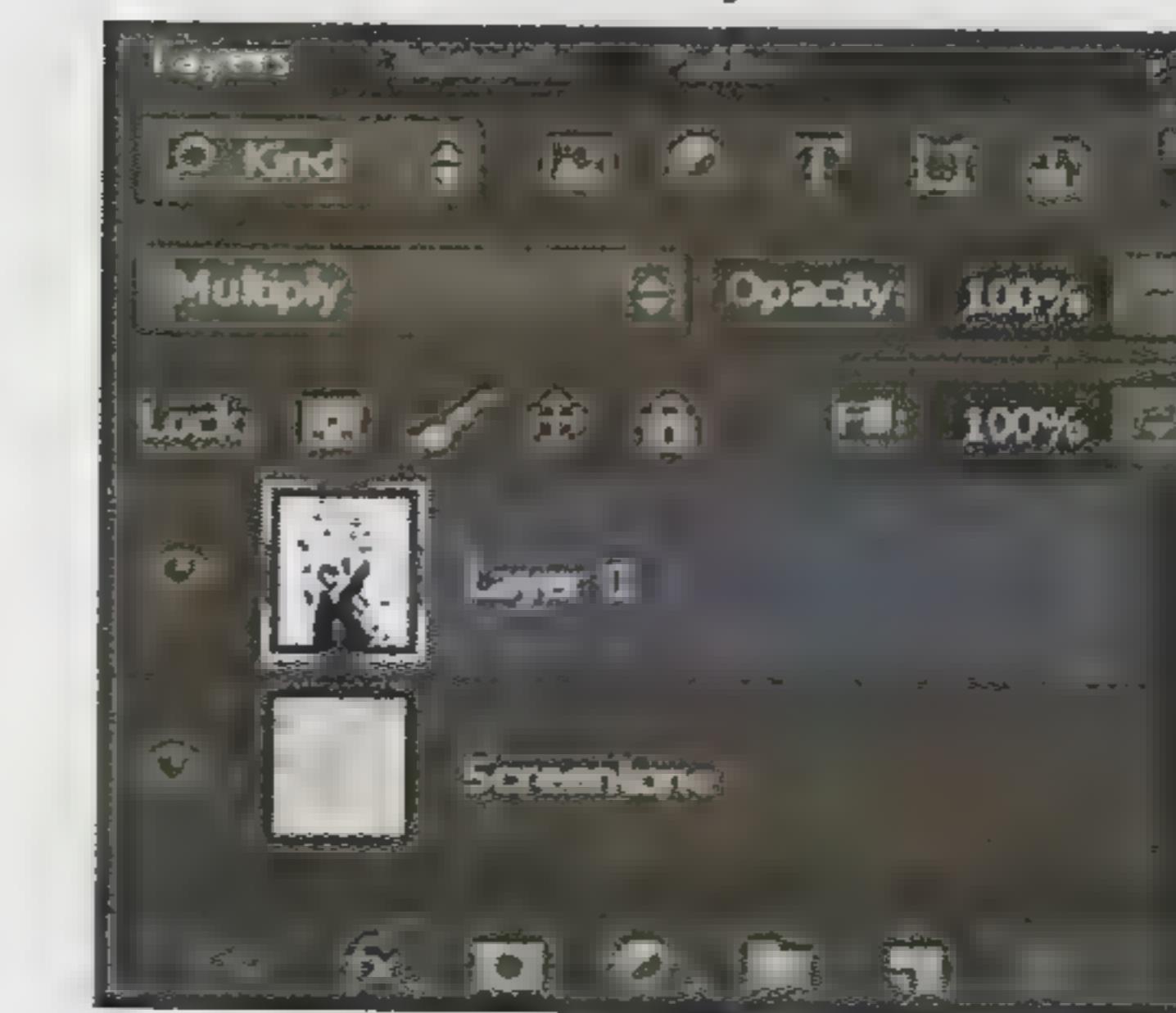
How to Screentone in Adobe PS



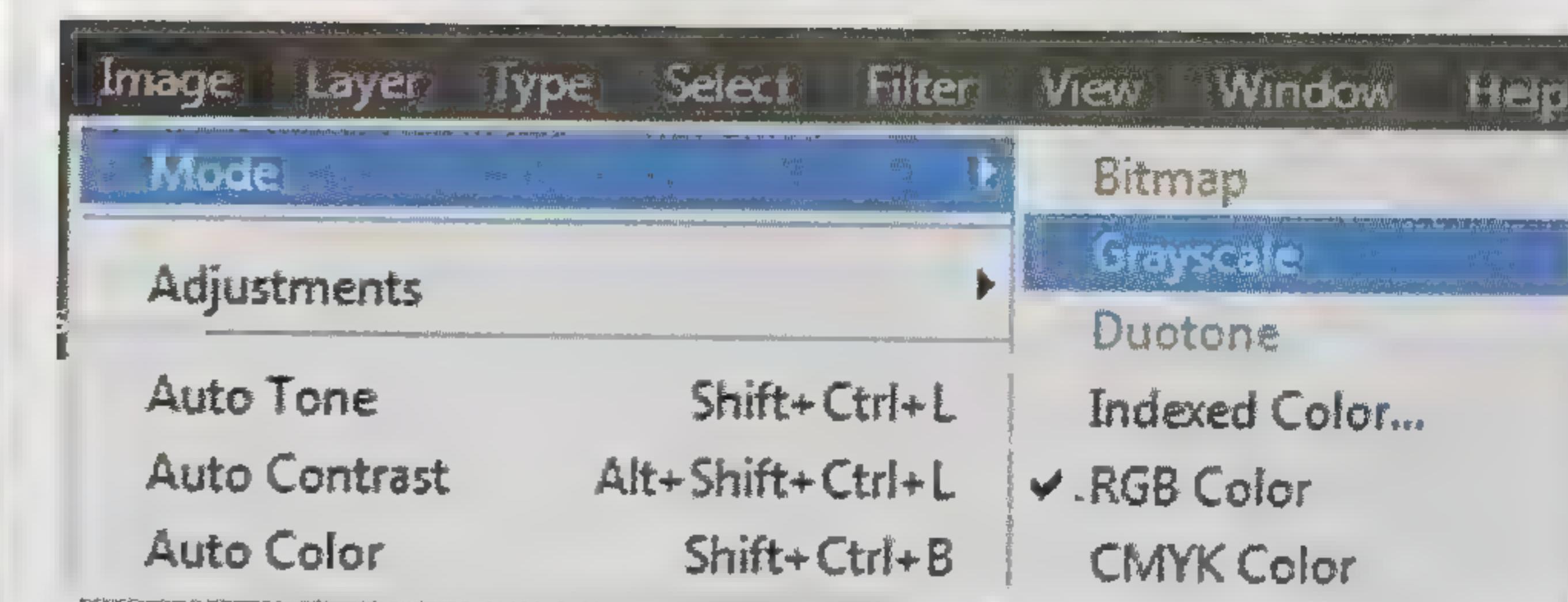
2.1 Double click the background layer



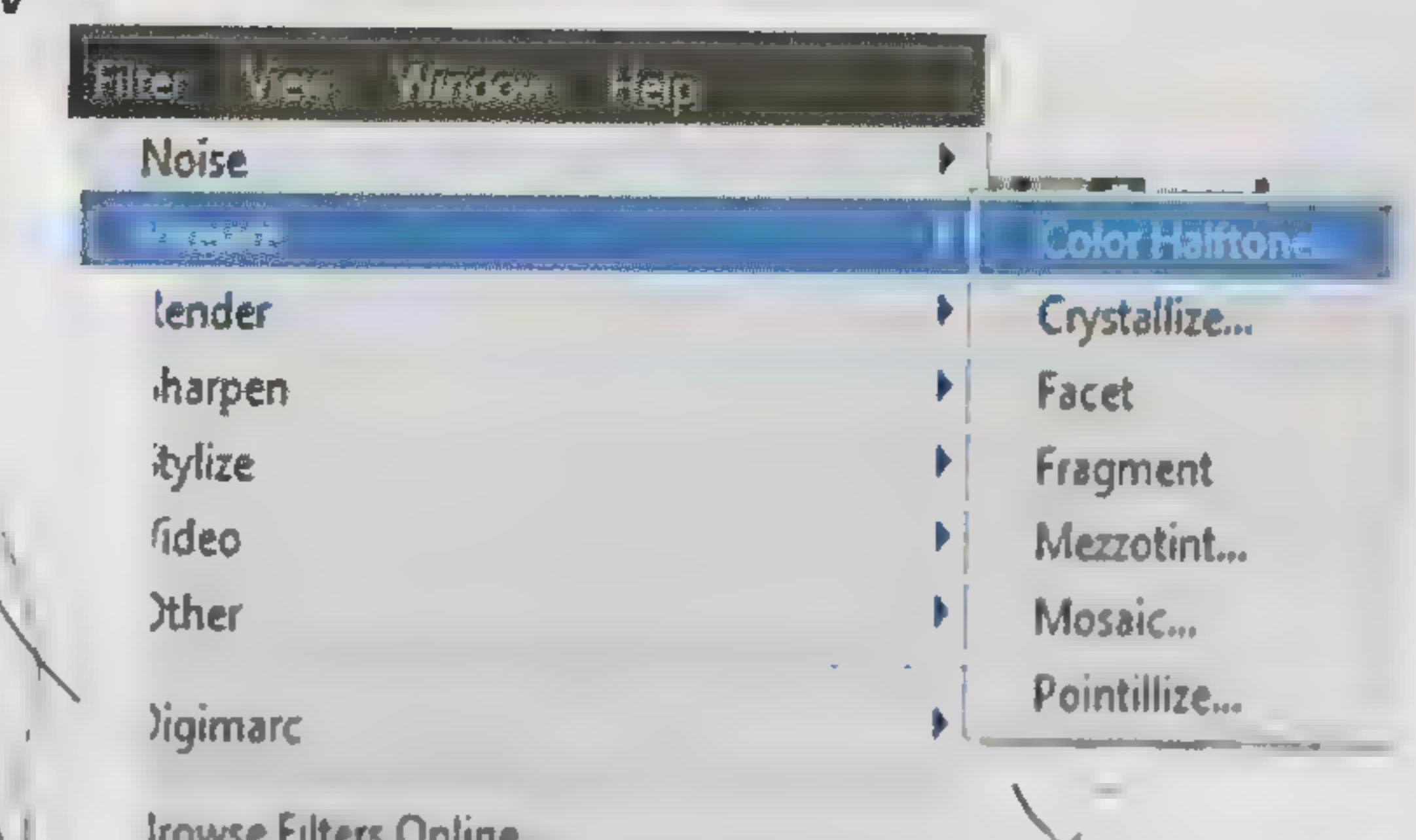
2.2 This command appears and press "OK"



3.1 Set the Lineart to multiply
3.2. Make another Layer below and name it to Screeentone for the screentones
3.3 Select the Screeentone layer



4. Set the image to Greyscale
Image > Mode > Greyscale



6.) To pixellate go to Then press "OK"



5. Select the area you wanted to put the screentone using the or lasso tool and color it with grey

And there you have it!
Screentones!





Despite his large size and monstrous roar, he is the kind and loving protector of the forest who helps the Kusakabe sisters whenever they need it. This benevolent creature also earned himself a spot in this issue's Character Profiles as he is hailed as one of the most iconic character of all time!

Name: Totoro
Title: Keeper of the Forest
Origin: Japan
Age: Unknown
Character Voice:
Hitoshi Takagi



Background:
Totoro lives in a large Camphor Tree hidden beyond the thicket near the Kusakabe residence. He is always accompanied by two smaller spirits named Chu Totoro and Chibi Totoro. All three of the Totoro spirits have spiritual powers attuned to nature and are capable of drawing the sisters to the spiritual world. Whenever the Kusakabe sisters are in a pinch, Totoro is always ready to lend them a helping hand. It's also thanks to Totoro that the girls were able to experience magical phenomena during their stay at the countryside.

Mei Kusakabe names him Totoro because she mispronounced the word "Troll".



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Get your gears ready for an awesome meet with a team of MMORPG players who are persistently discovering their way into the world of **Elder Tale** from the anime **Log Horizon**

Shiroe

Who would've thought that this awkward, megane-kun, is a highly capable mage and strategist? But if you look closely, he is the perfect epithet of a gamer. An introvert at heart, he seems cautious around people even with those whom he likes and respects. He has a long list of friends in his game account but contacts only very few people. He constantly refuses to be a part of any guild, but this slim megane-kun is a reliable tactician with years of experience. Having played the same role in the now defunct Debauchery Tea Party guild, Shiroe has been honed into someone dependable and critical-minded. Because of this, a lot of gamers are taking advantage of his intelligence, partly the reason why he doesn't want to be a part of any guild.

As an Enchanter, his mastery includes **Full Control Encounter** which enables him to forecast battles 30 seconds in advance. Meanwhile, his subclass as a **Scribe** allows him to draw maps precisely. He later on forms the guild "Log Horizon" when he realizes that he has the capability to protect others within a group.

Griffins

A flying creature with the body of a lion, and the head, wings and legs of an eagle. Its body ranges from two to four meters in length. With its ability to fly and carry up to two passengers at once, some Griffins are trained as mounts.

Shiroe's group uses griffins to cross the lands to rescue another player.

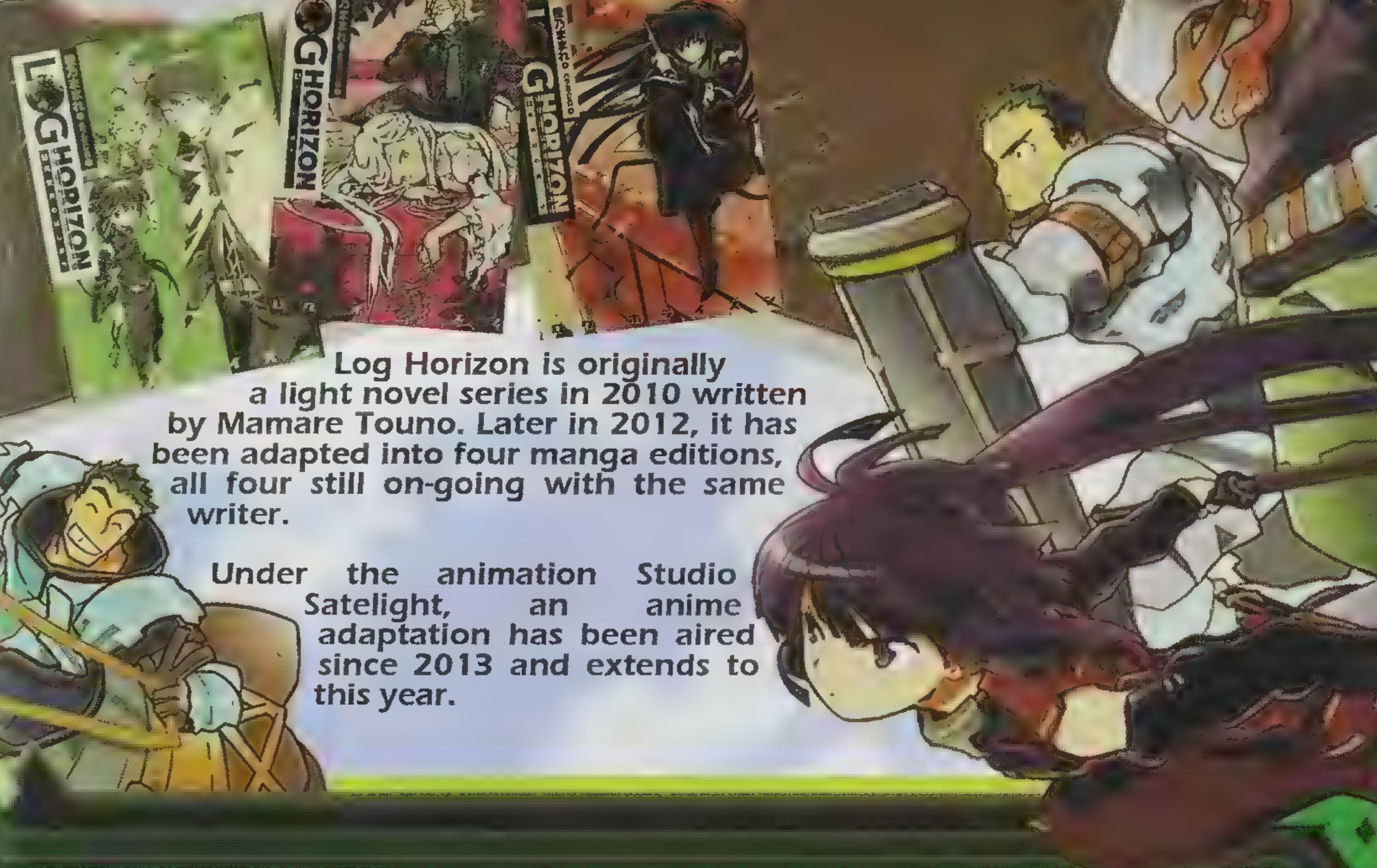
The transport decreased their travel time of two weeks to three days.



In Chinese Zodiac, the year 2014 is under the animal sign, horse: the embodiment of socialization and adventure. But truth be told, not everyone can keep up with a horse's enthusiasm. Some people are still socially uncomfortable and normally conservative. Take Shiroe's example as a graduate school student who has been playing the game "Elder Tale" for the past eight years. He doesn't seem to mind if he cannot meet his online friends even though he had known them for a long time. But this is definitely not how Shiroe envisioned finally meeting his online gaming buddies Naotsugu and Akatsuki in real life. They only wanted to see the newest update "Novasphere Pioneers" of Elder Tale and familiarize themselves with the expansion pack. But in a flash, they find themselves stuck inside the world they have been accustomed to play.

The anime starts in medias res where Shiroe and his group are rapidly fighting low-leveled monsters called **Brier Weasels** within Akihabara chapter. Surprisingly, they can use the skills and abilities they have garnered through years of playing the game. However, there is too much action in the puddle of confusion, and they haven't crossed paths with a lot of players yet. Only one thing is for sure: it is neither a game nor a dream, but a reality. More than 30,000 Elder Tale players in Japan and thousands of others all over the world who logged in at the time of the update have been experiencing this scenario-change.

Briar or Brier Weasels
aggressive and territorial monsters, attacking any players who dare venture into their territory. They have the magical abilities to control plant elements, shoot laser beams from their whip-like tails and usually attack in numbers.



Log Horizon is originally a light novel series in 2010 written by Mamare Touno. Later in 2012, it has been adapted into four manga editions, all four still on-going with the same writer.

Under the animation Studio Satelight, an anime adaptation has been aired since 2013 and extends to this year.

Despite Shiroe's love of privacy, he was smart enough to realize that he is not alone. He did not ignore the fact that people need his help now more than ever. Being stuck inside a game changed it all.

He decided that the best way to help the situation was to form a guild. Shiroe named it Log Horizon.

Log Horizon

The Elder Tale Gamers and their Friendly Quirks
The Elder Tale Gamers you can get from this anime. Amidst all the seriousness you can get from this anime, the whole cast has a lighter side in them which makes the character portrayals suitable for this anime genre.

A cat seen from above. Nyanta is a rappable subclass. Chef who can cook real food with taste. He gathers and cooks all the ingredients himself rather than depending on the automatic in-game food in their game menus. He is also the former Chief of Debauchey Tea Party who Shiroe and Naotsugu used to collaborate with. He is a cool but flashy gentleman as evident on his gestures. He was the one who took care of Serata after saving her from Brigandia Guild.

NYANTA

An open pervert and proud to be one, Naotsugu is a tall and buff guy who's been friends with Shiroe for a long time, dating way back to the Debauchery Tea Party guild era. They got to know each other online at Elder Tale first, and later on met in real life as well. He often cracks jokes, making him the life of the group. He has a like-hate relationship with Akatsuki, and would often receive kicks from her because of his rude punch lines.

Naotsugu is a powerful Guardian who's ready to plunge into danger when his friends are in trouble. He may not be that intelligent, but his knowledge is practical and his strength is useful in battles.



AKATSUKI

She first appeared as a male character, and only when she asked for Shiroe's appearance-changing potion did they get to know that she is actually female and child-looking at that. Since then, she has offered her services as a Ninja to Shiroe and addresses him "My Lord". Most of the time, she is irritated by Naotsugu's antics that often kicks Naotsugu in the face. Despite her fierce and competitive attitude, Akatsuki's tsundere nature is a good blend to their group. She is a loyal friend and a reliable Assassin weapon-based class in battles. It is later revealed that despite her looks, she's as old as Shiroe.

Shiroe decided to purchase an entire building in the outskirts of Akihabara as their guild base. The building allows guests for events and discussions. Shiroe playing a significant role in their make-shift government and society within the game. As decided by the organization of the Round Table Alliance. Other activities are made possible in the large space. Every member of Log Horizon has his or her room, spacious halls for practice and studying.

GUILD BASE

Naotsugu
An open pervert and proud to be one, Naotsugu is a tall and buff guy who's been friends with Shiroe for a long time, dating way back to the Debauchery Tea Party guild era. They got to know each other online at Elder Tale first, and later on met in real life as well. He often cracks jokes, making him the life of the group. He has a like-hate relationship with Akatsuki, and would often receive kicks from her because of his rude punch lines.

Naotsugu is a powerful Guardian who's ready to plunge into danger when his friends are in trouble. He may not be that intelligent, but his knowledge is practical and his strength is useful in battles.



TOHYA & MINORU

Beginners before The Apocalypse, twins Tohya and Minoru approached Shiroe about how to acquire items and learn skills. At that time, the 12th expansion pack was already released. They lost contact with Shiroe since then. In-game, Shiroe sees the twins with a guild, thinking that it's good for them. But it was in fact a vindictive guild that asks children to do things for them.

Understanding the situation within Elder Tale

Main Class

It decides the players battle ability in Elder Tale. When a player start the game, they can choose from 12 unique classes, categorize into warrior class, weapon-based class, healer class and mage class.

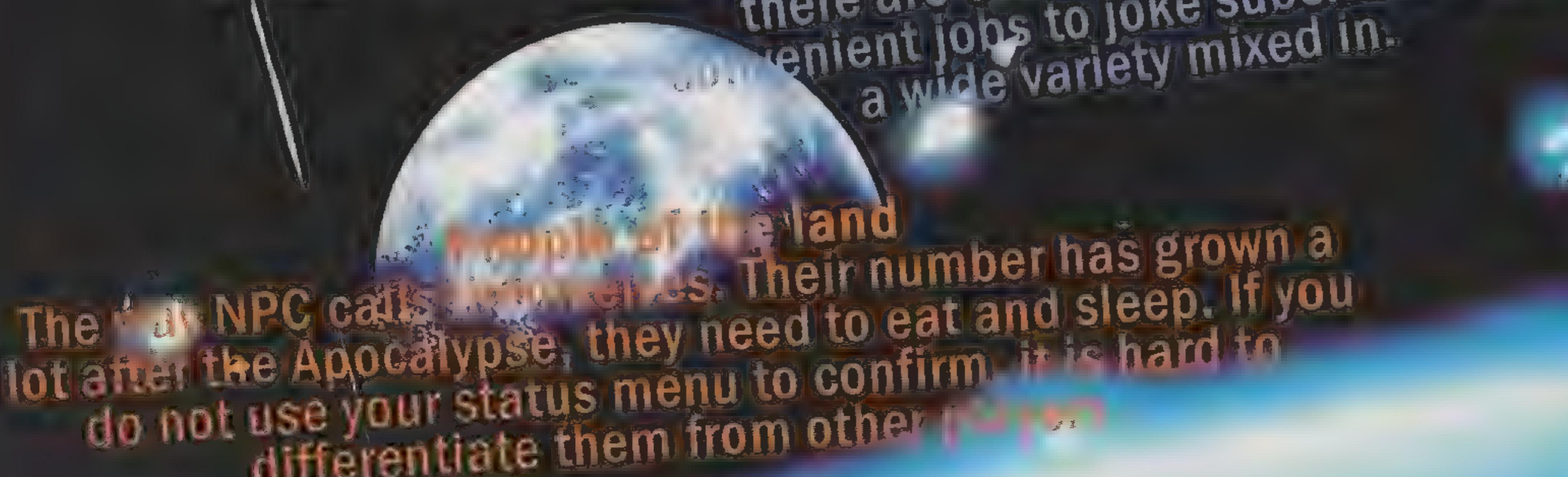
There are 3 class from each category, a total of 12.

Akiba City

One of the player cities in Yamato, it's position is relative to real Japan's Akiba.

Sub Class

Have no direct relation to battling, but a convenient skill to have while playing the game. Compared to the 12 class, there are over 50 subclass, from convenient jobs to joke subclass, it has a wide variety mixed in.



Round Table Council

The governing body of Akiba formed under the proposal of Shiroe. It's 11 members include the guild master of big battle guilds, major production guilds and the representative of all the small guilds, leading the revolution in Akiba.

With all the enemies you will enjoy this game. With all the enemies you will be a hero, not just a hero. With all the enemies and politics, you will be the master of the world.

Having to grow up may make you feel uncomfortable at first, and your usually suspicious and more intelligent, after that if you do a little effort, the world will come to you, and you will become a better person, and make him form a better future for the world. The new world that we have right now, is similar to the new world that these games are commanding, like you can eat with your hand up high!

Cast Time

The time needed to prepare before activating a skill. It differs from skill to skill, powerful skill usually have longer cast time. You can maneuver while casting combat skills, but any magic spells will be interrupted if you move while casting.

League of Freedom Cities

The People of the Land has an alliance too, it comprises of nation leaders and kingdom rulers who rules over the eastern mainland of Yamato (Japan).

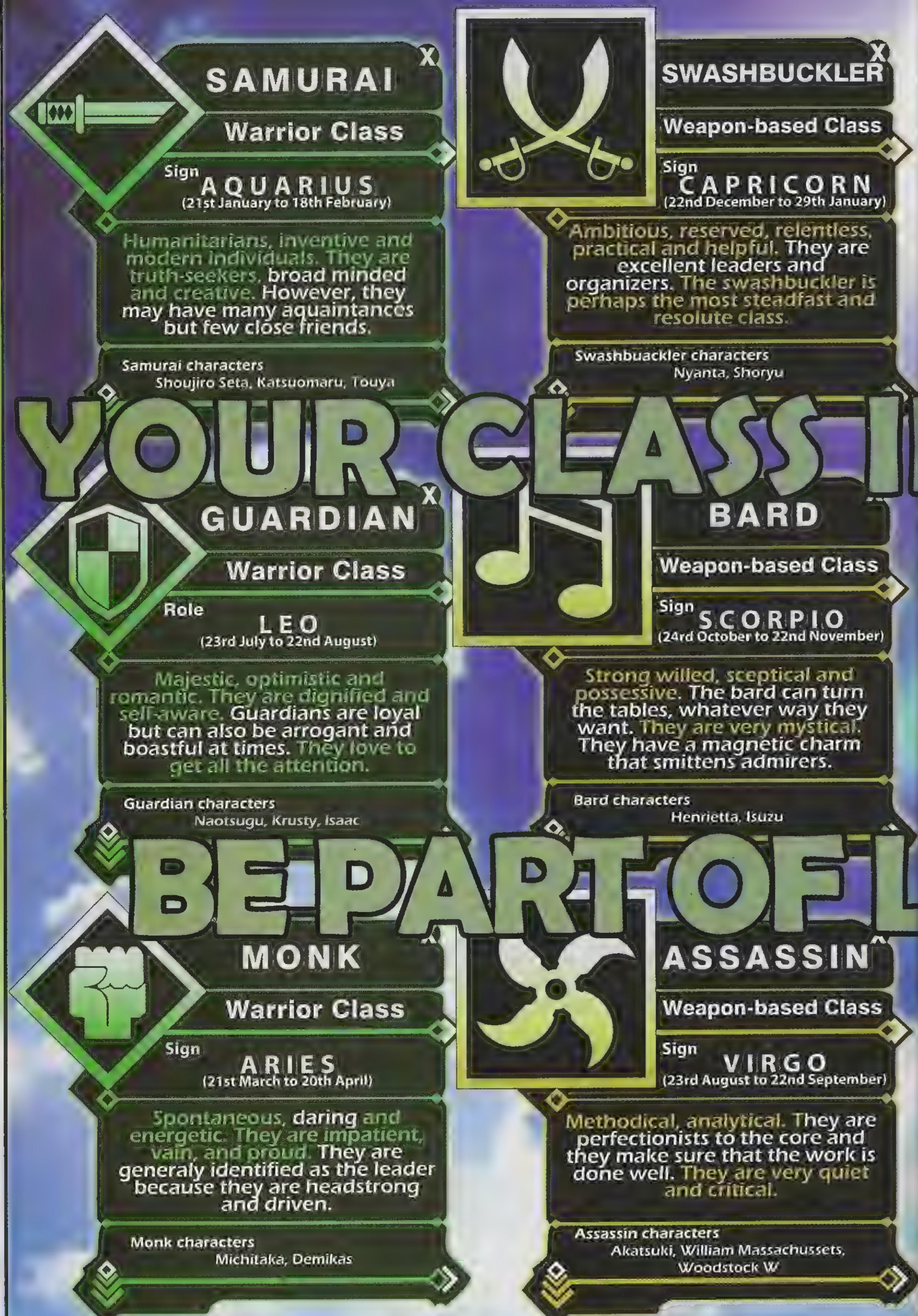
Recast time

After using a skill, the time needed to use it again. This restriction prevents player from spamming a specific skill. Some skill has the restriction of using it once per day.

Call of home

One of the basic skill. Can instantly teleport to the last visited safe zone with a cathedral.





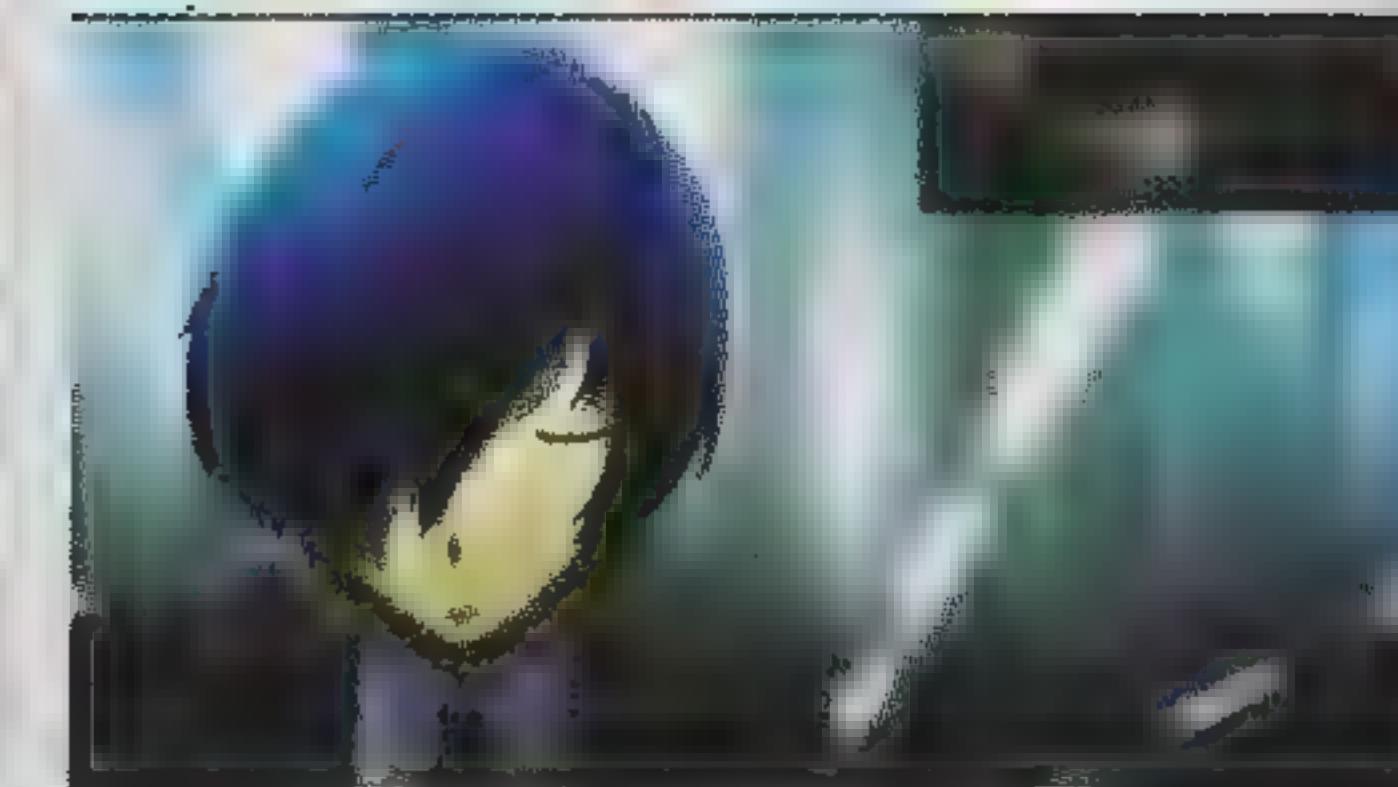
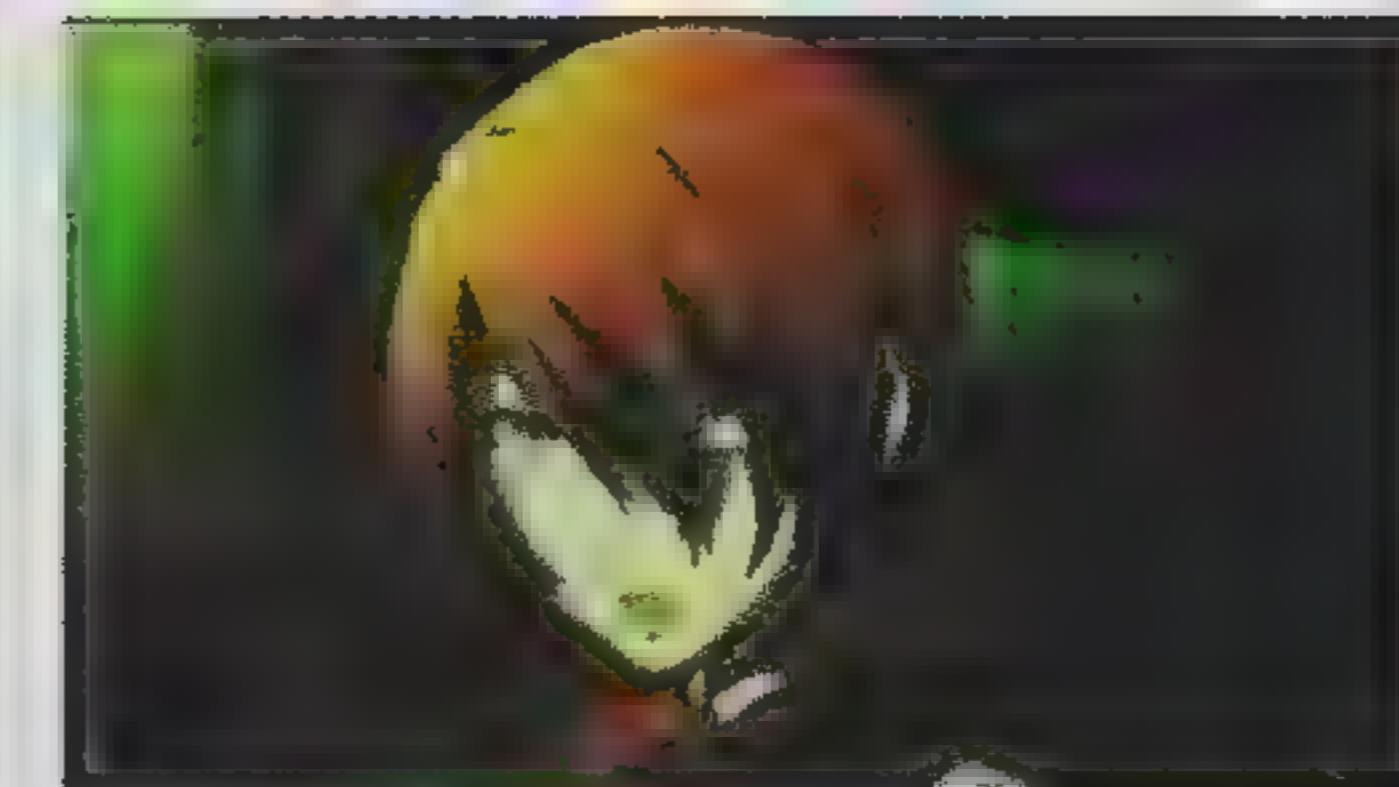
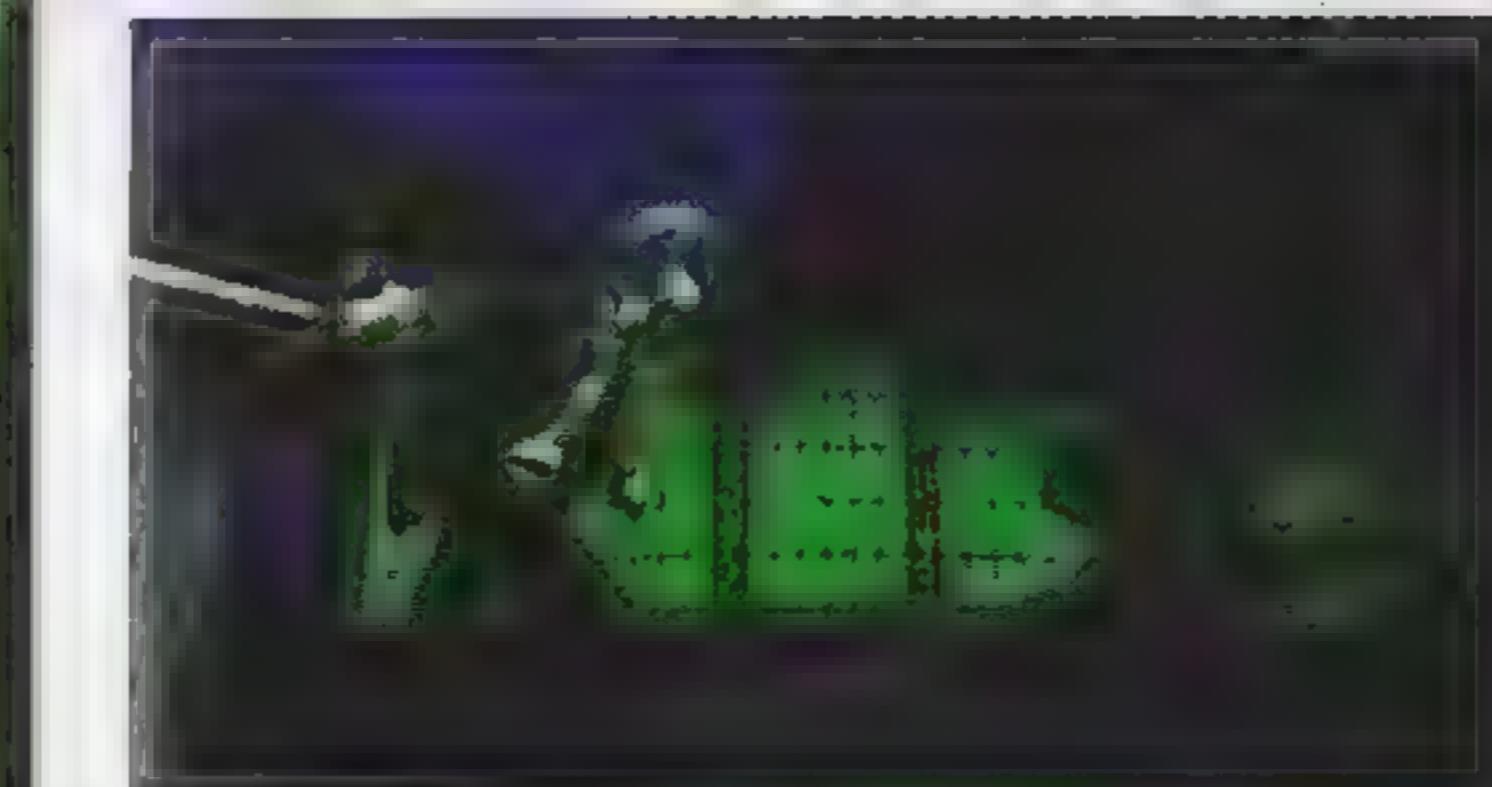


MOVIE REEL

written by: James



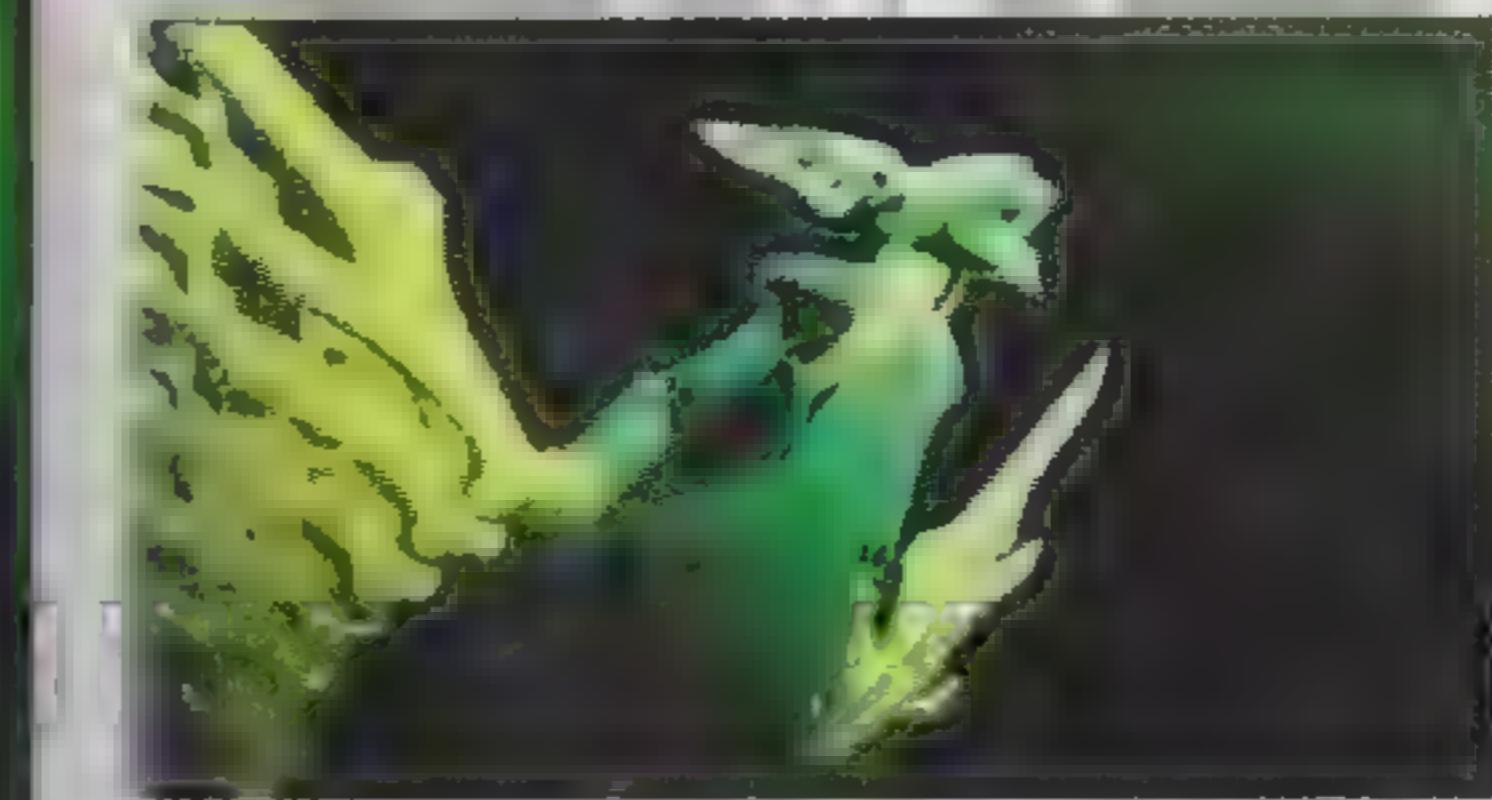
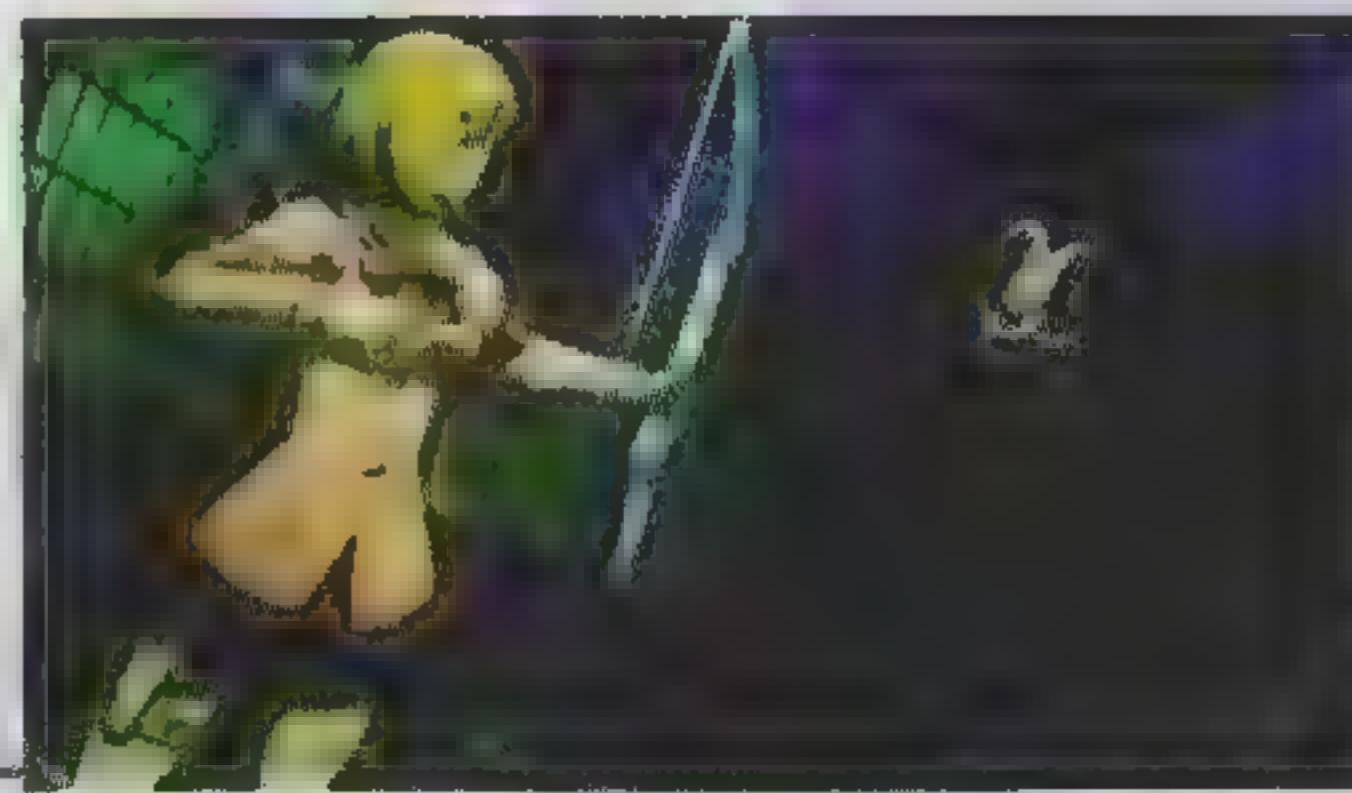
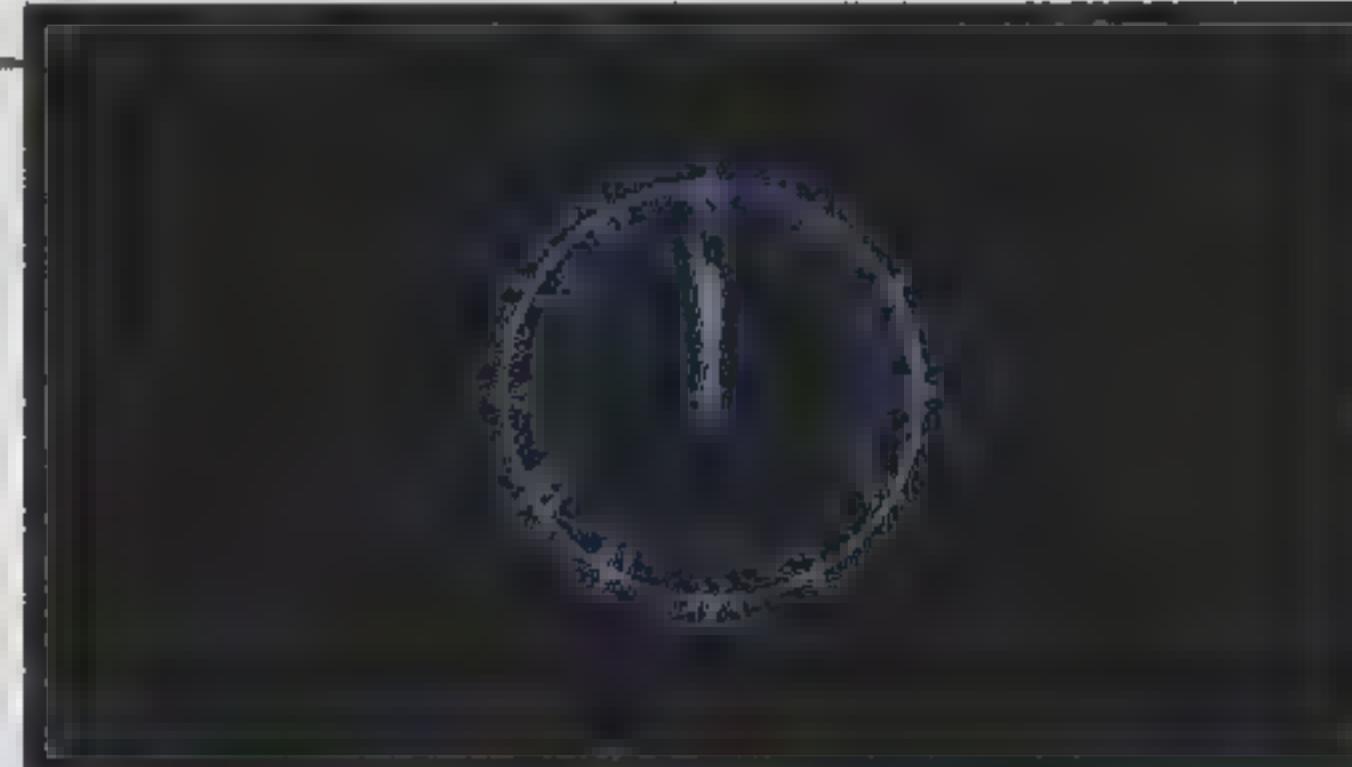
There is a world that lurks deep within the shadows. A world full of mystery, danger, and fear. And those who have stepped from our world into that one will have their lives changed forever. Follow the footsteps of those who tread in the dark in the movie Persona 3: Spring of Birth.



Based on the critically-acclaimed PS2 game Persona 3, the movie is about an orphaned high school boy named Makoto Yuki. A fresh transferee to Gekkoukan High School, he experiences 'The Dark Hour', a mysterious and unexplained phenomenon that allows otherworldly beings called Shadows to become active and prey on human beings.

During the dark hour, when a giant Shadow threatens to attack Makoto's two dorm mates, he goes to their aid and awakens his Persona, powerful spiritual beings controlled and summoned by human beings. Because of this, he is recruited by a secret school organization named SEES, aiming to solve the mystery of the Dark Hour and destroy Shadows once and for all.

The art is just a visual treat. The characters and creatures are beautifully drawn and fluidly animated. Also, the backgrounds are full of vivid color despite the movie being mostly set at night, giving the movie a mysterious feel with a contrasting sense of awe-striking beauty and unique style.

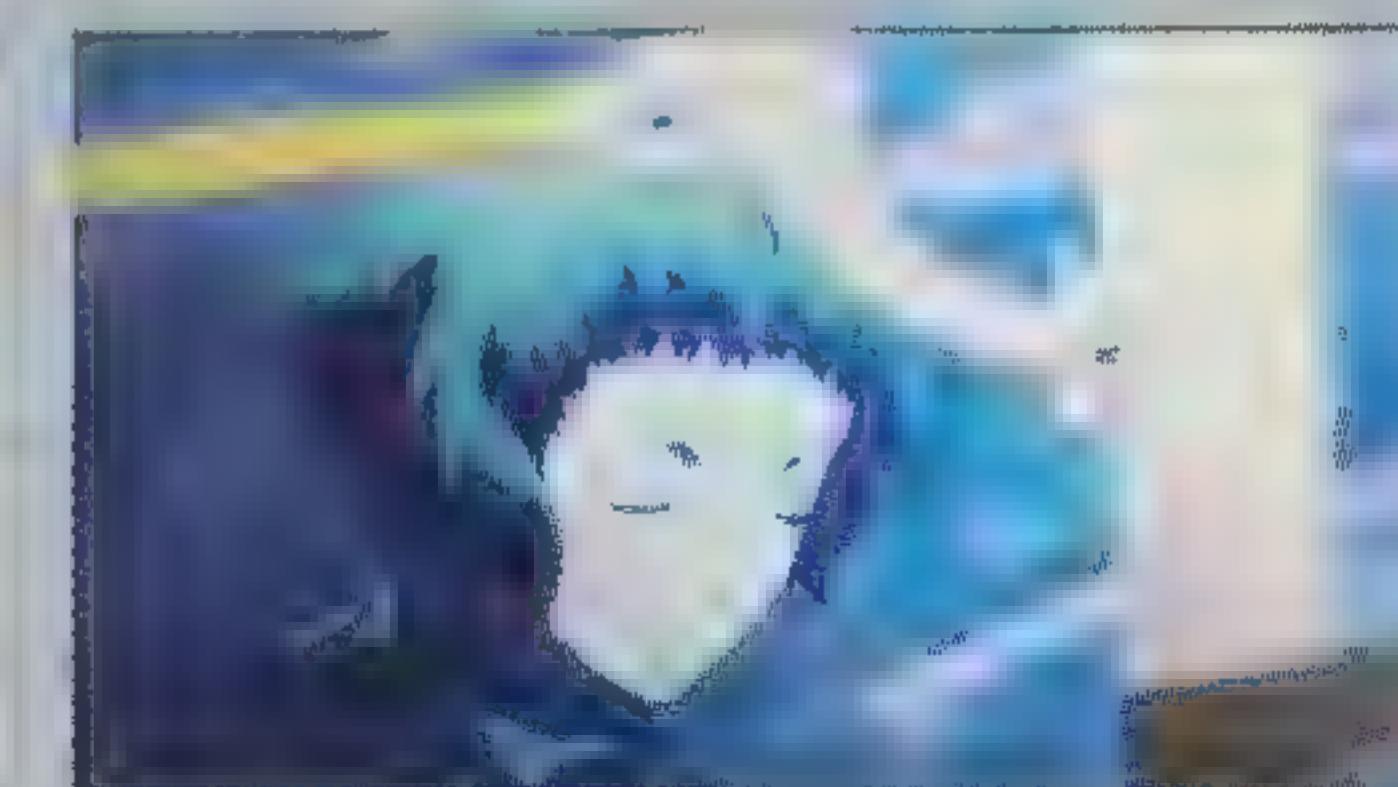
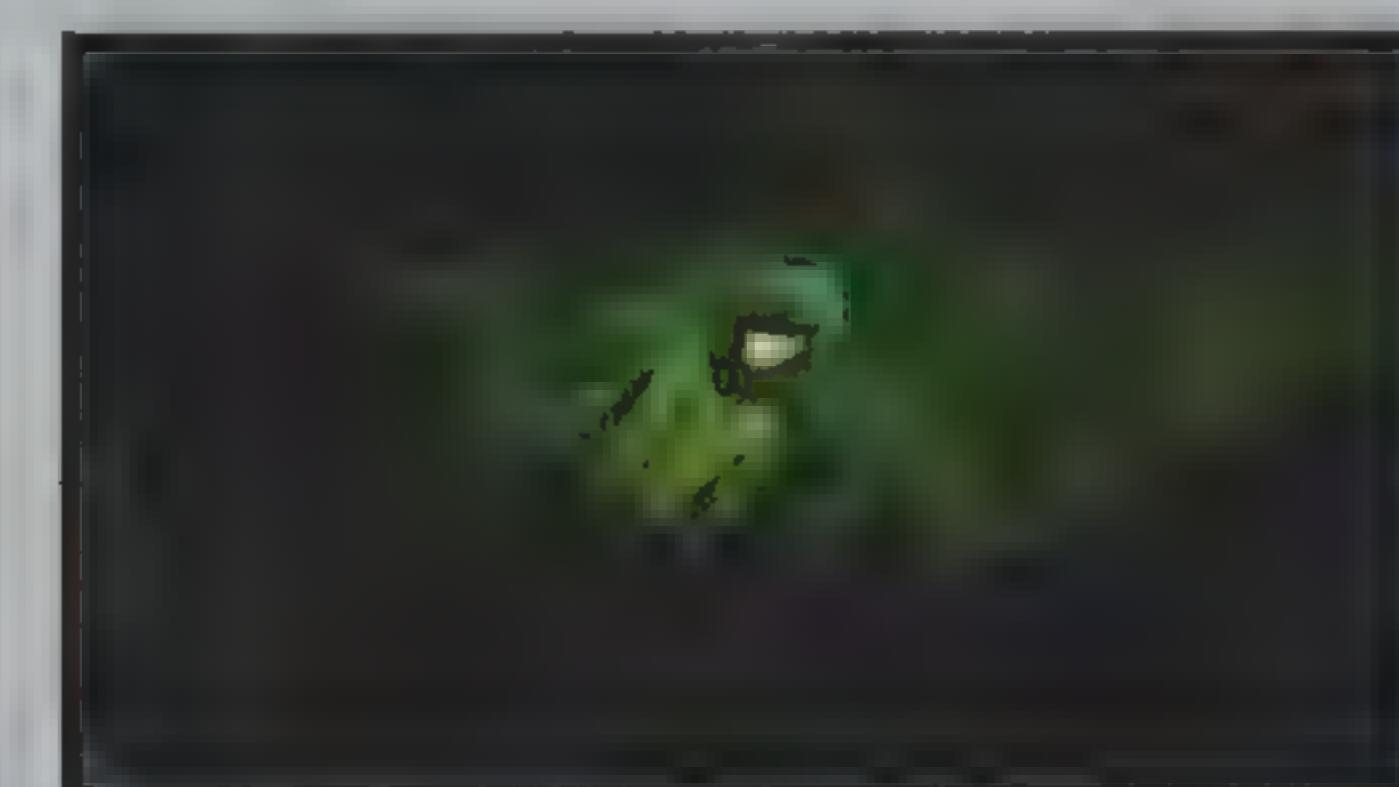


The music is also one of the movie's strong points. Being a combination of trancelike j-pop and hiphop, it complements the movie's dark and surreally mesmerizing visuals. While it reused the game's soundtrack, it perfectly suits the movie, giving the fans of the game some nostalgic earworm.



Refusing to condense all of the game's events into about one hour and twenty minutes, it only covers the very beginning of the game, making it seem like there's not much going on aside from awesome battle scenes between Shadows and SEES along their personas. However, it does make a good foundation of the overall feel of the movie and its future installment, as well as the dynamic relationship between Makoto and the members of SEES.

Overall, the movie is a top-notch adaptation of a top-notch game. While more or less an ideal gateway for new fans of the franchise, its true target audience is the game's fanbase. With beautiful visuals and an equally beautiful musical scoring, stylish character design, and a simple plot set in an intricate reality, Persona 3: Spring of Birth is a mystical spring flower in the midst of winter.





Samurai Flamenco

"A hero will never give up, never hide, never be defeated and never accept evil"

Every one of us wishes to be a hero and save the world, but being one is impossible. We don't have supernatural powers or advanced technology to achieve the ability to be a hero. But, a powerless young man with no advanced technology has a strong sense of justice. A model by day and a superhero by night, this young extraordinary man is Masayoshi who proclaims himself as "Samurai Flamenco"

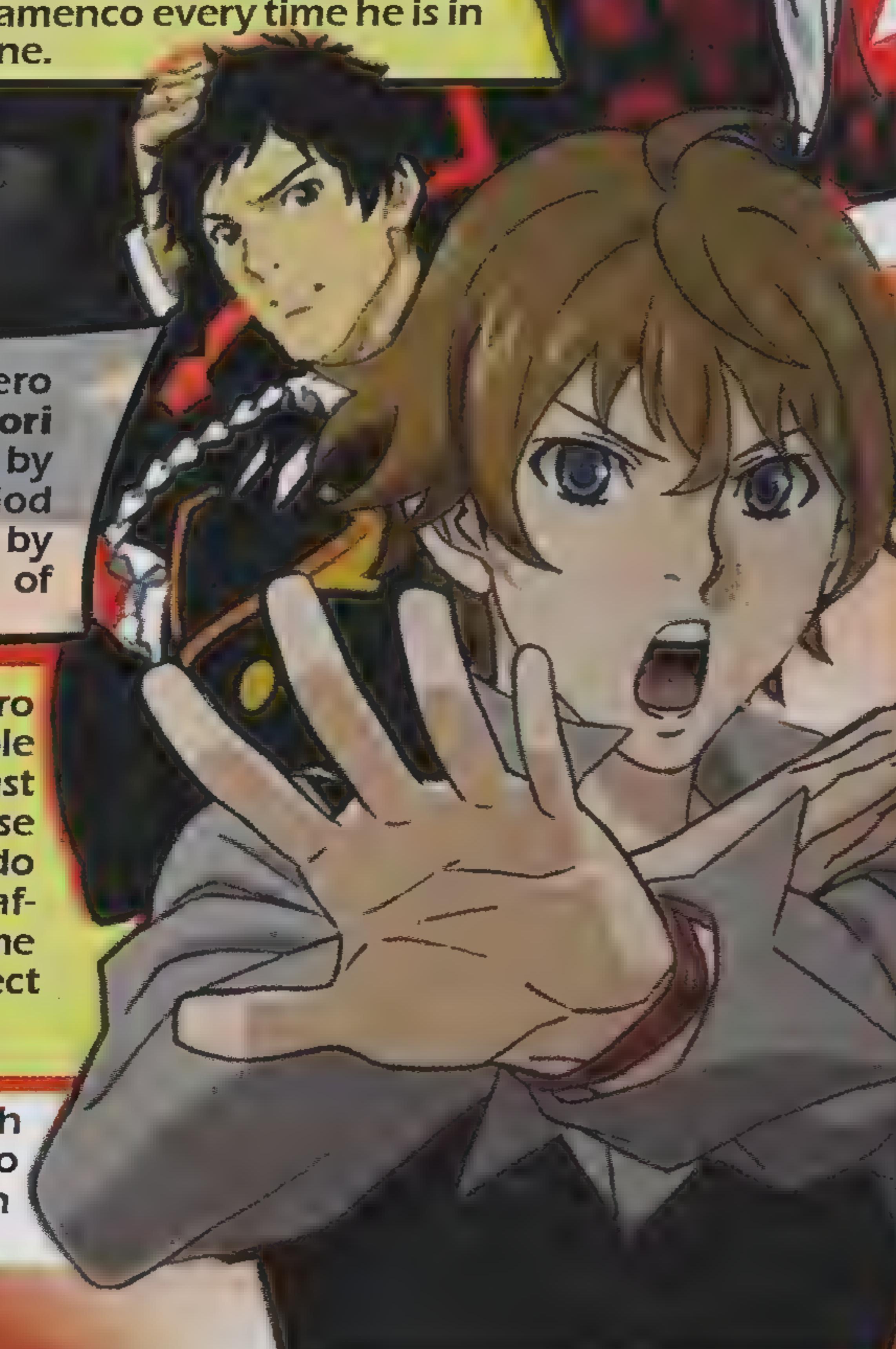
Officer Goto Hidenori is a normal policeman who is contented with his work, yet doesn't mind common misbehaviors of the society; such as the jaywalking, littering, middle school kids hanging around late. Until one night he meets a naked young man in a dark alley, claiming that he is a superhero. The name of the young man is **Hazama Masayoshi**, a model who lives in a prestigious apartment. Masayoshi was doing "rounds" at night dressed up as a superhero calling himself "Samurai Flamenco." He was inspired by his grandfathers' stories about heroes who fight evil. Hidenori realises his lack of effort to become a proper policeman through Masayoshi. After the meeting, he became busy and troublesome since he helps Samurai Flamenco every time he is in a tight situation bringing justice to everyone.



Samurai Flamenco is a superhero comedy-action directed by **Takahiro Omori** (*Hell Girl, Durarara!!*) and written by **Hideyuki Kurata** (*Hellsing, The World God Only Knows*). This anime is produced by Aniplex, FujiTV, Manglobe and Aniplex of America.

This is a story of a modern day superhero facing the daily misbehavior of the people in the society. It also shows the contrast and difference of a hero who has the sense of justice with a policeman who tends to do his job without meddling other peoples' affairs. Unlike other superhero themed anime with actual powers; it focuses on the aspect of doing a good deed and growing up.

Samurai Flamenco will definitely hook you with its pure laughter and the sense of awareness to follow the rules. Even a small disobedience can cause huge accidents.



REVIEWS

by Pam

NOBUNAGUN

This New Year, a young girl will trigger the soul of Oda Nobunaga to wake up. The warlord, who once ruled over Japan, now becomes the great weapon who will protect humanity from the monstrous invaders!

Shio Ogawa, a high school student who is visiting Taiwan for a school tour where she is suddenly attacked by monsters called **"Evolved Invaders"**. The military doesn't have any chance to fight back to those beings, until the **E-Gene Holder** agents from the government organization **DOGOO** arrive. These agents wield an advance technological weapon infused with the great historical figures. **Mahatma Gandhi**, the Indian pacifist is now a barrier and the great scientist **Isaac Newton** is a gravitational maneuver. When Shio's friend is in danger, Shio's power awakens and wields a weapon just like the agents. **Oda Nobunaga** is Shio's weapon as a giant machine gun called **Nobunagun**.

Nobunagun is sci-fi, action anime that aired last **January 5**. Adapted from **Masato Hisa's** manga that began last 2011. The anime is produced by **Bridge and Earth Star Entertainment**. A rookie voice actress, **Shiori Muto** provides the voice of, **Shio Ogura**. **Tatsuhsia Suzuki** (**Takao; Kuroko no Basket**) will provide **Adam Muirheads** voice. **Nobunaga Shimazaki** (**Haruka; Free!**) will voice **Mahehs Mirza** and **Yu Asakawa** will voice **Jess Beckham**.

These historical figures versus monsters will surely bring you a brand new sci-fi action anime. Complete with school girls fighting beasts and saving humanity. This year will definitely start a new version of anime that you will look forward to. Watch this epic anime, **Nobunagun!**

Sakura Trick

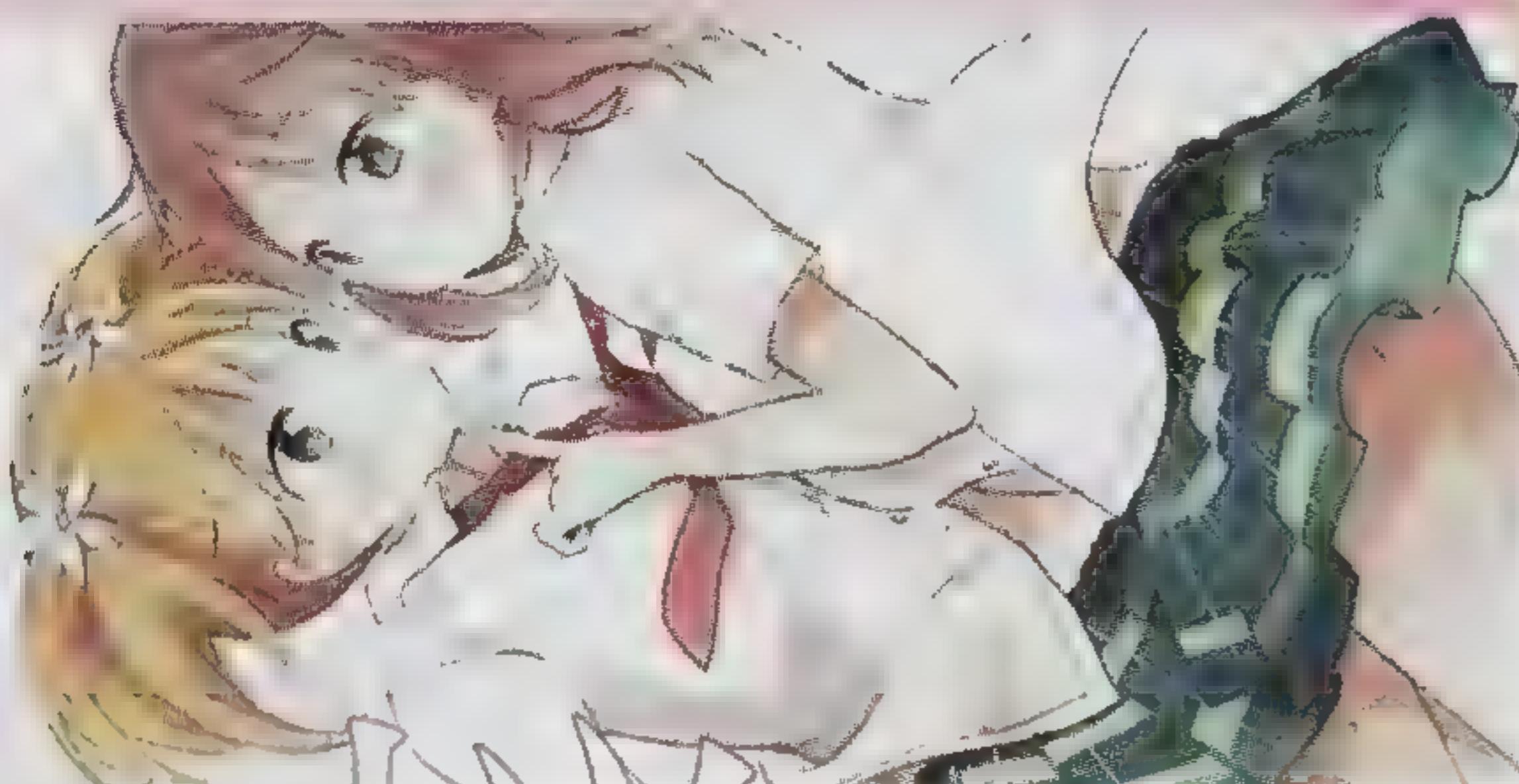
Sealed with a Kiss

Yuu Sonoda and Haruka Takayama attend a school that will close down in three years. They were inseparable during their middle school years, but fate played a trick on the two and got them on the opposite sides of the class upon entering high school, forcing them to spend time with their other classmates. But then they came up with something to maintain the special relationship they have.

The two shared a kiss to prove that their relationship is something more than just being friends.

Tachi's *Sakura Trick* is an on-going comedy 4koma manga serialized in *Manga Time Kirara Miracle!* since March 6, 2011. An anime version of the said manga will start airing on January 14, 2014 with Studio Deen and Pony Canyon as the producers. Voice actresses Yuka Iguchi and Haruka Tomatsu will star in the anime as Haruka Takayama and Yuu Sonoda respectively.

Unlike most slice of life shows featuring schoolgirls, *Sakura Trick* uses *shoujo-ai* as the theme of the manga—which explains why the main characters have to settle with kissing in order to deepen their relationship. But despite that majority of the cast are into girl-to-girl relationships, there are situations that will make you laugh or feel warm and fuzzy inside.



If you enjoyed watching *Yuyushiki*, *Yuru Yuri* or even *Love Lab*, then you should consider adding *Sakura Trick* on your to-watch list.



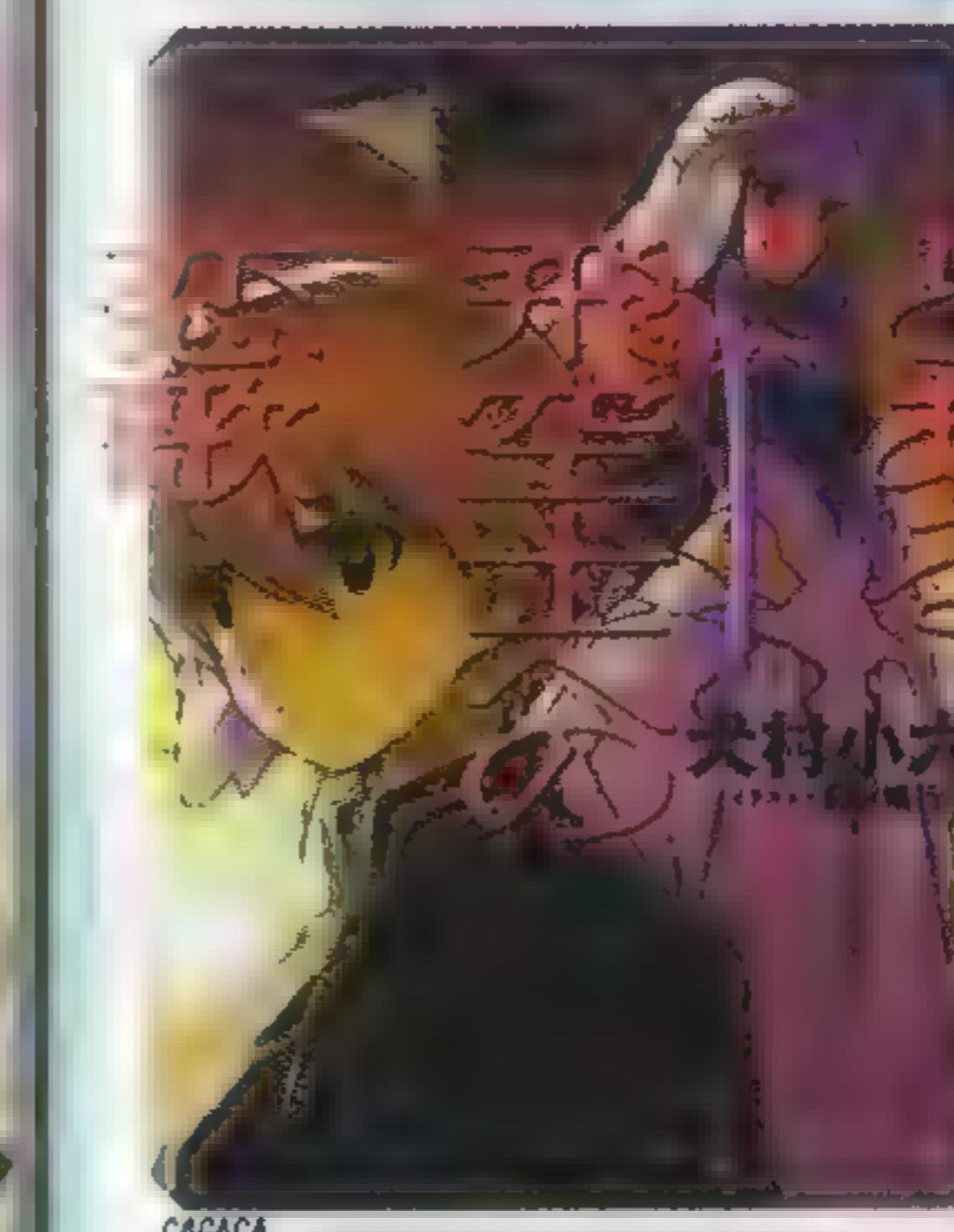
Toaru Hikuushi e no Koiuta

Key song: *Arubasu*
Genre: Comedy, Romance, Action

Losing everything considered important makes some people to lose their way in life. But for others, this serves as a turning point in which they decide where they want to direct their future.

Karueru Arubasu (Kai-el Albus), a former prince who lost everything to a revolution, decides to go on a one-way journey to discover the ends of the heavens. In the journey where he expects hatred and revenge, he finds people who will teach him about friendship and love.

He also meets a girl named **Kurea Kurasu (Claire Cruz)** on the levitating island of **Isura**. The story of love and aerial combat follows the former prince who lost everything to a revolution, and the girl is the symbol of the revolution.



< *Toaru Hikuushi e no Koiuta* is a 2009-2011 five-volume light novel series set in the same world as Inumura's *To Aru Hikuushi e no Tsuioku* (The Princess and the Pilot).

An anime television series by TMS Entertainment has been announced, and is set to air in January 2014.

Toshimasa Suzuki is directing the anime off scripts supervised by **Shinichi Inotsume**. **Hiroki Harada** is designing the characters. **Karueru Albus** is voiced by **Natsuki Hanae** and **Claire Cruz** is voiced by **Aoi Yuki**.



How will love and friendship prevail over revenge? Find it out for yourself! You can count on this anime to bring you to a whole new dimension – here, there, and especially up in the skies!



A Female Knight is Fine Too



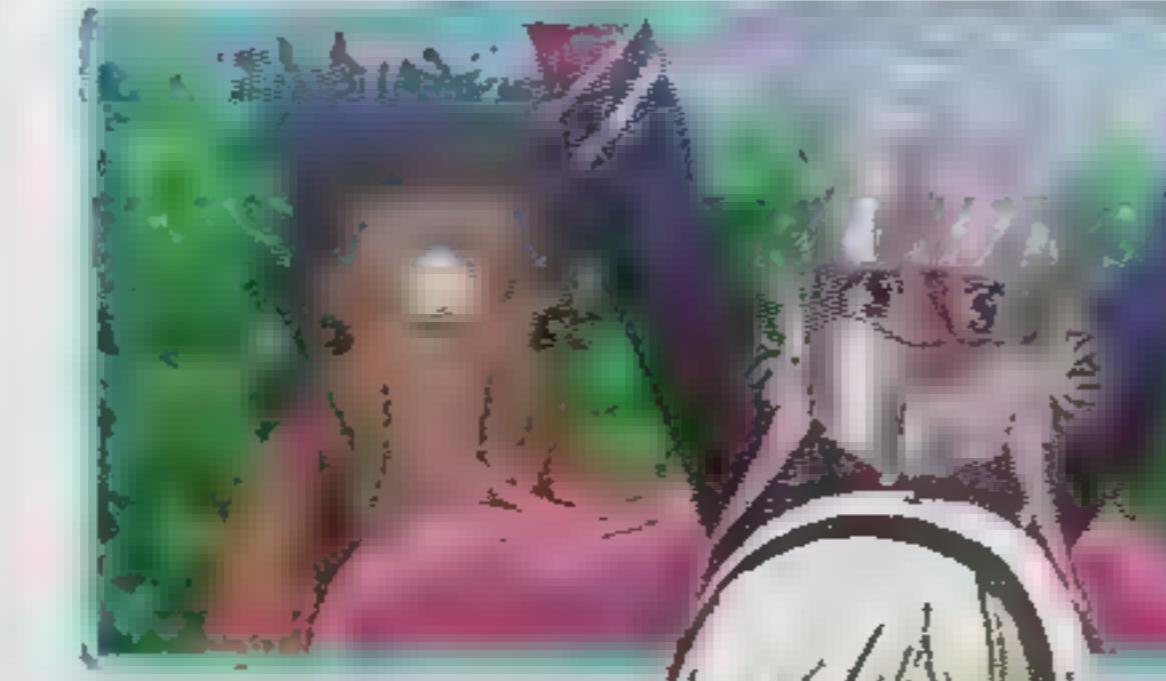
Knights in shining armor are one of the basic essentials when it comes to fairy tales as they are the one that gallantly swoops in to save the damsels in distress. But what if these knights turn out to be females; will they tilt the balance of knighthood or can they prove their worth on the world of jousting? Discover the wonderful tale of these noble female knights in *Walkure Romanze*.

Mizuno Takahiro, a defamed knight and a student at an academy established with jousting as its main curriculum, has transferred from being a knight into being a **begleiter** after getting injured at a match. Takahiro now focuses on advising and escorting other knights. After a certain incident, his childhood friend **Kisaldi Mio** is suddenly involved in a duel between another knight at their school due to certain misunderstandings. Without getting any say into the matter, the duel was set and scheduled but the thing is, Mio is not a knight and doesn't even know how to ride a horse. After some thoughts and considerations, Takahiro decided to become Mio's begleiter and teaches her the basics of jousting. Can Takahiro make a knight from Mio given the short amount of time?



Walkure Romanze is game adapted anime produced by **8-Bit** and directed by **Yusuke Yamamoto** which premiered in **Fall 2013**. The anime was adapted from the visual novel **Walkure Romanze ~Shoujo Kishi Monogatari~**, that was published and developed by **Ricotta** for Windows PC. *Walkure Romanze* is their second visual novel after *Princess Lover*. The anime's opening theme is "Un-Delayed" performed by **Miyuki Hashimoto** and the ending theme is "MoonRise Romance" performed by **Natsuko Aso**.

Jousting is indeed one of the most forgotten sports in man's history, but *Walkure Romanze* will surely not fail in reviving the sport's concept with its relaxing theme and excellent character design. The anime is full of exciting surprises that is mainly caused by Mio. *Walkure Romanze* is a unique anime that displays the prowess and gallant of female knights. It also exudes a noble aura of sportsmanship between fellow knights. Follow *Walkure Romanze* to find out if Mio and Takahiro can overcome the trials that are laid upon them.



The Man amongst a Garden of Flowers

by Mikelle



In a world ruled under female dominance, how can one man prove his worth and carve his mark on the world? Shall he give up and accept his pre-defined fate, or does he go beyond the norm and forcefully open a door to reach new heights?

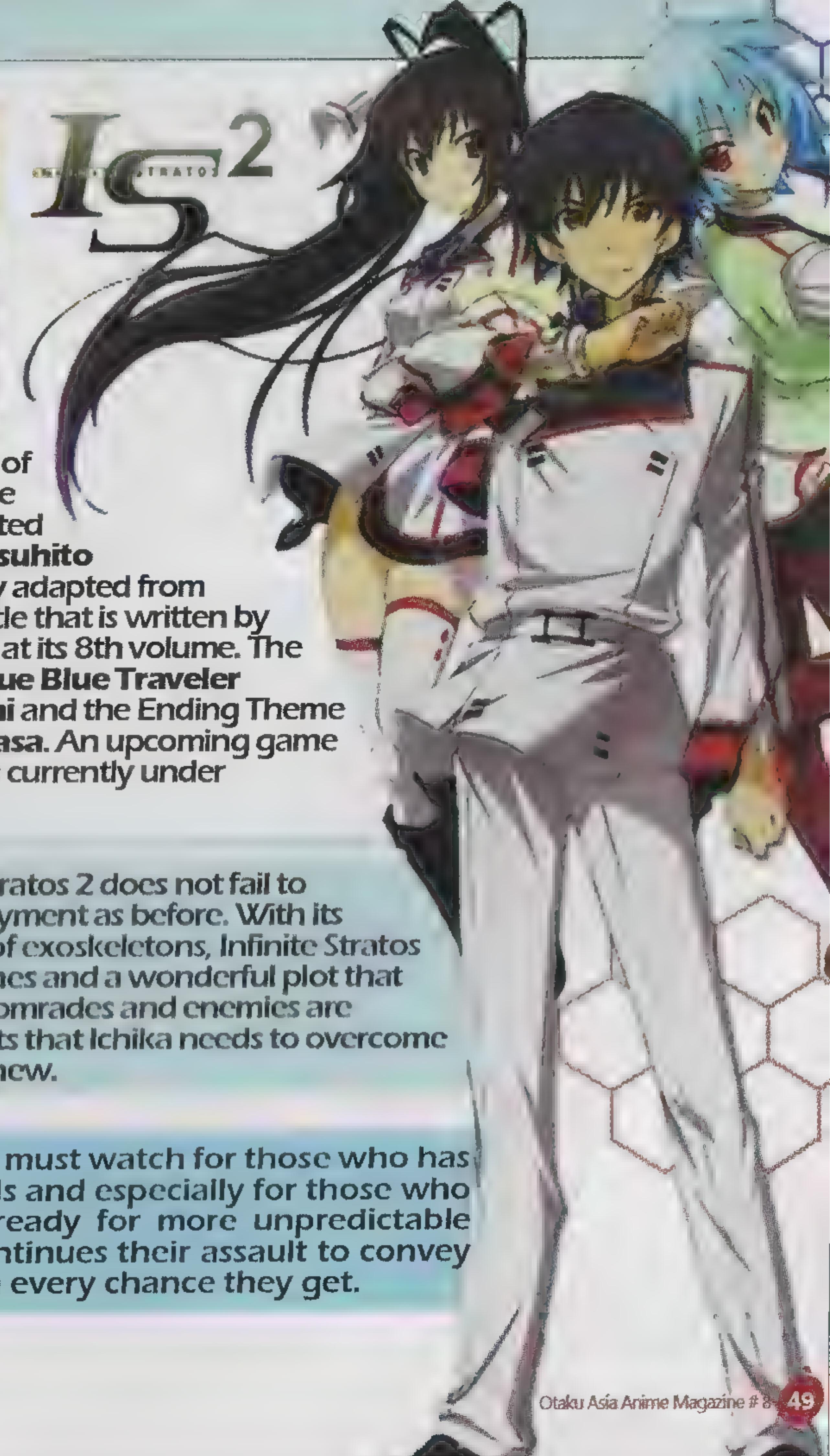
The continuation of **Infinite Stratos**, where Japan has developed a new exoskeleton called **Infinite Stratos** or **IS** which was soon adopted by various countries and became a standard necessity within the military, but it has one flaw – only women could operate it. This leads to females being the more dominant class in the world, until **Ichika Orimura**, the 1st and only male who accidentally activates an IS and is forced to attend a prestigious all-female military academy established to train students in the art of piloting IS. It is here where Ichika met most of his friends that are also representatives of their own country and together, their school life turns upside down as they were thrown in disarray as a new terrorist group has arisen and is determined to steal different nation's IS and use it for their own benefits.



Infinite Stratos 2 is a direct sequel of the 1st season that premiered in the Fall of 2013 season which is animated by **8-bit Studio** and directed by **Yasuhito Kikuchi**. *Infinite Stratos* is originally adapted from the light novel series of the same title that is written by **Izuru Yumizuru** which is currently at its 8th volume. The 2nd season's Opening Theme is **True Blue Traveler** performed by **Minami Kuribayashi** and the Ending Theme is **BEAUTIFUL SKY** by **Youko Hikasa**. An upcoming game based on IS2 for the PS3 and Vita is currently under development.

Like the previous season, *Infinite Stratos 2* does not fail to provide viewer with the same enjoyment as before. With its wonderful CGs and great designs of exoskeletons, *Infinite Stratos 2* insinuates great mecha fight scenes and a wonderful plot that will take you along its pace. New comrades and enemies are introduced along with new conflicts that Ichika needs to overcome along with his allies, both old and new.

Infinite Stratos 2 is definitely a must watch for those who has taken a liking to the light novels and especially for those who enjoyed the 1st season. Get ready for more unpredictable situations as Ichika's harem continues their assault to convey each of their own feelings with every chance they get.



ONE CHANGED BY FATE

Japan is no stranger to disasters or calamities, but what if the nature of such events are spiritual? Enter the modern onmyouji, masters of magic! Following the second world war, magic has been integrated into society, so much that actual schools and entire special forces have been built around its practitioners. Now, as a member of a renowned family of them, will you choose to accept your obligation as an heir, or deny it?

Tokyo Ravens follows **Harutora Tsuchimikado**, a not-so-proud member of the Tsuchimikado's branch family of **onmyoujis** or **shamans**. Despite Harutora's lack of supernatural powers, he is fully satisfied in living an ordinary life along with his friends. His ordinary life came to an eventful turn after he was reunited with his estranged cousin, **Natsume Tsuchimikado**. Holding on to a childhood promise to protect Natsume, Harutora soon finds his world turned upside down as he gets thrust into the world of the supernatural.



Tokyo Ravens is a Fall 2013 anime being handled by the studio 8-bit. It is an adaptation of the light novel written by Kohel Azano (Black Blood Brothers) and illustrated by Sumihei. Ten volumes of the light novel have been published so far, with the tenth one being released last October. As if that isn't enough, the series also has a manga adaptation illustrated by Atsushi Suzumi.

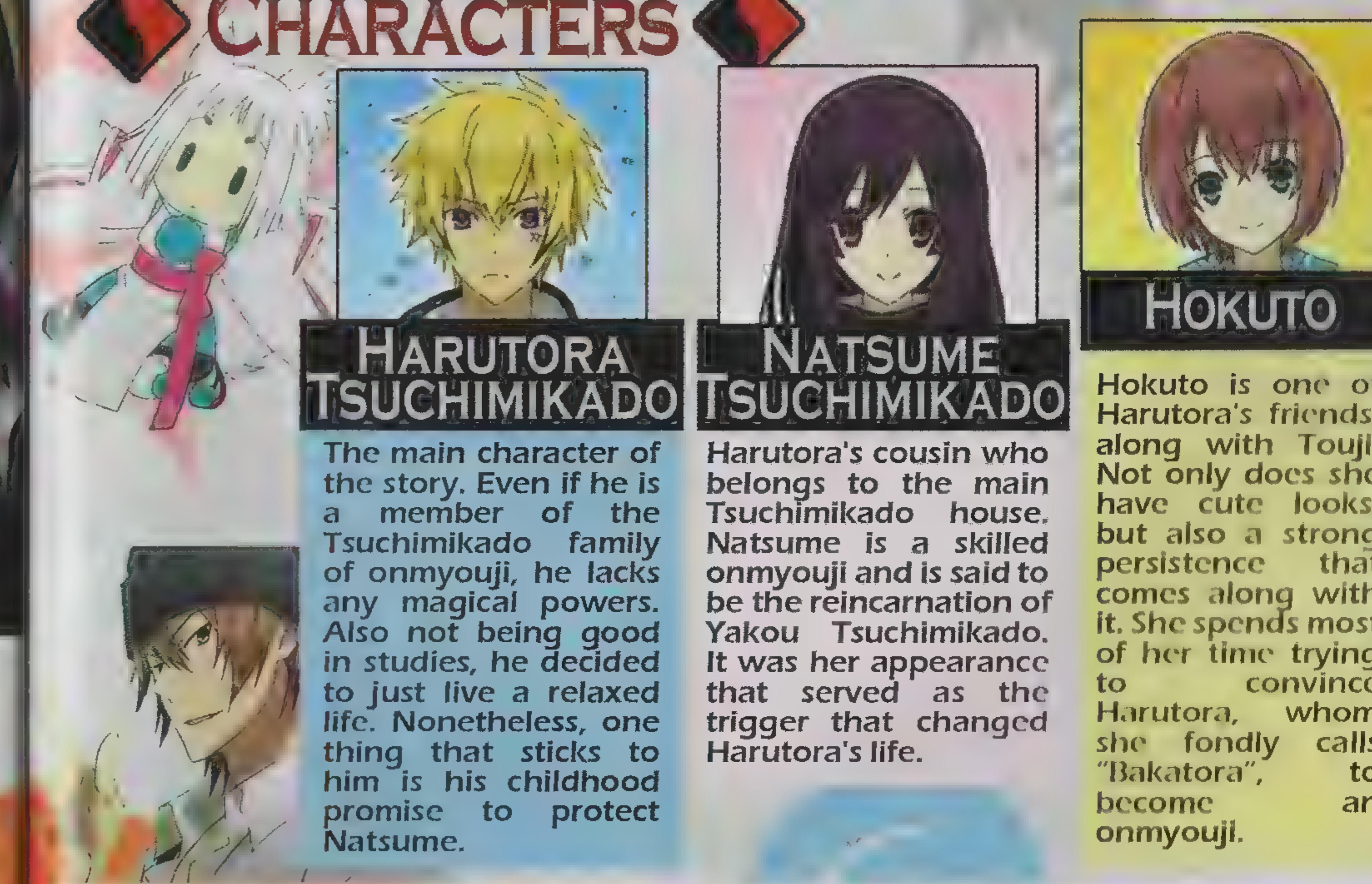
While there is an abundance of supernatural shows revolving around onmyouji and spirits, Tokyo Ravens definitely contains a unique appeal. It manages to bring out the best in both eras of history. Showcasing the mysticism of traditional Japanese culture and its ties to the supernatural, the anime successfully blends these elements with a futuristic flavor. The Tsuchimikados, genki girl Hokuto, former delinquent Touji, and the crazy-yet-talented Suzuka Dairenji form an entertaining ensemble to watch.

Background art in the show is top-notch, and the mechanized designs for several of the shikigami only add to the modern feel of the show. Of course, what is an anime without epic songs that make you sing-along and avoid skipping the opening?

"X-Encounter" by Maon Kuroski provides just that. These make the show a great display of production which will surely not disappoint any audience.



CHARACTERS



HARUTORA TSUCHIMIKADO

The main character of the story. Even if he is a member of the Tsuchimikado family of onmyouji, he lacks any magical powers. Also not being good in studies, he decided to just live a relaxed life. Nonetheless, one thing that sticks to him is his childhood promise to protect Natsume.

NATSUME TSUCHIMIKADO

Harutora's cousin who belongs to the main Tsuchimikado house. Natsume is a skilled onmyouji and is said to be the reincarnation of Yakou Tsuchimikado. It was her appearance that served as the trigger that changed Harutora's life.



HOKUTO

Hokuto is one of Harutora's friends, along with Touji. Not only does she have cute looks, but also a strong persistence that comes along with it. She spends most of her time trying to convince Harutora, whom she fondly calls "Bakatora", to become an onmyouji.

Putting it all together, Tokyo Ravens is no doubt a visually-appealing anime, but it doesn't stop there. It is also an intriguing show with its take on the classic supernatural anime genre. Complete with dramatic twists and captivating spiritual battles, this show is definitely recommended for any fans of the similar genre.

Catch Harutora's destiny unfold in this underrated gem of an anime!



MAIDEN OF CLOCKWORK

How can one define as a human? Is it determined by the outer appearance and physical form, or must it possess a heart and emotion?

In an age where people use automatons, a revengeful boy goes lengths to become stronger. Strong enough to use the most powerful automaton in the world: a girl madly infatuated with him.



Set in the early 20th century, at Britain's Royal Academy of Machineart, Walpurgis. In this royal institution, where students immerse themselves in the study of Machinart – an art of magic that utilizes dolls, puppets or automatons, a combat tournament is being held with the academy's top 100 students along with their automata. Everyone aims for the top as the winner shall be bestowed with the title of 'Wiseman', the world's strongest puppet master.

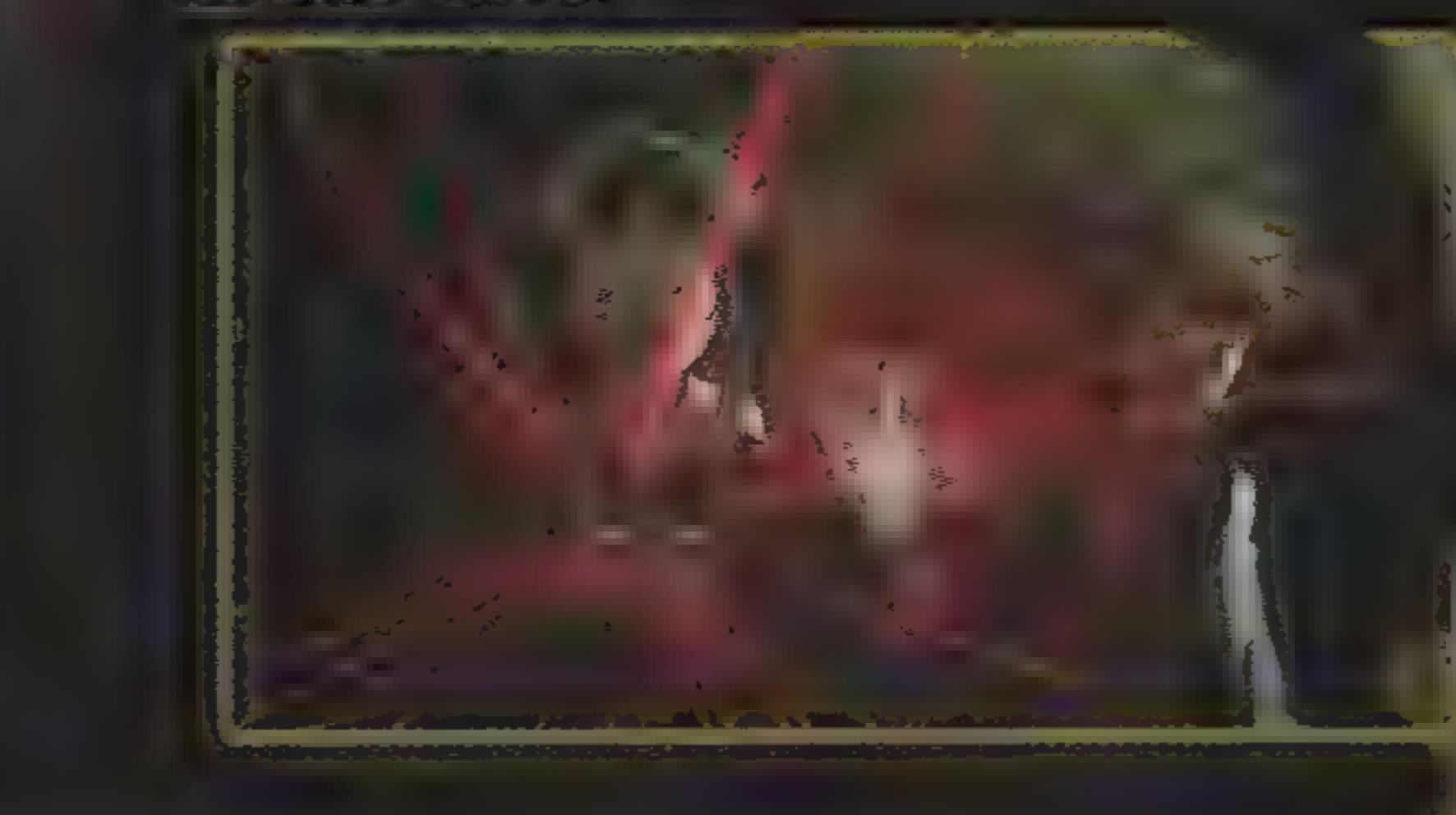
Unbreakable Machine-Doll, also known as **Kikou Shoujo wa Kizutsukanai**, is a Fall 2013 anime that was handled by **Lerche Studio**, co-produced by **Genco**, **FUNimation** and **Media Factory**, and is directed by **Kinji Yoshimoto** who also wrote the story board for **Mirai Nikki**. It is adapted from a famous ongoing Light Novel series by the same title that was written by **Reiji Kaitou** and illustrated by **Ruroo** which is now at its 12th volume. There is also a manga adaptation of the series that is currently being serialized by **Comic Alive**. The anime's Opening Theme is **Annica** by **Hitomi Harada** and the Ending Theme is **Maware! Setsugetsuka** by **Hitomi Harada, Ai Kayano** and **Yui Ogura**.



Among the competitors is a young puppeteer from Japan named **Raishin Akabane** and is accompanied by his automaton, **Yaya**.

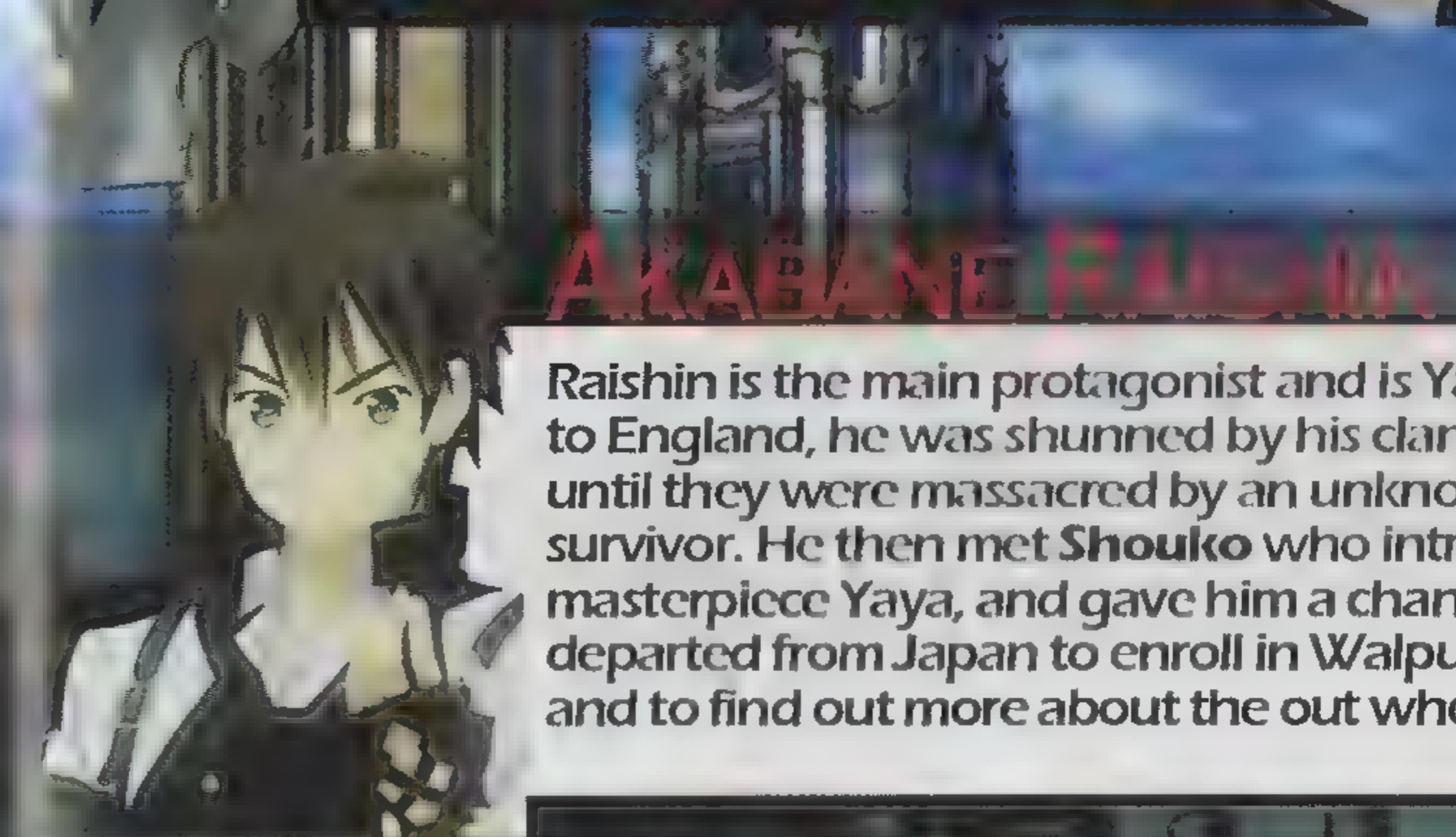
Raishin aims to conquer the title of Wiseman and to exact revenge on his enemy.

Driven by hatred, he is determined to utilize anything and everything to achieve his long sought dream and see it through to the end.



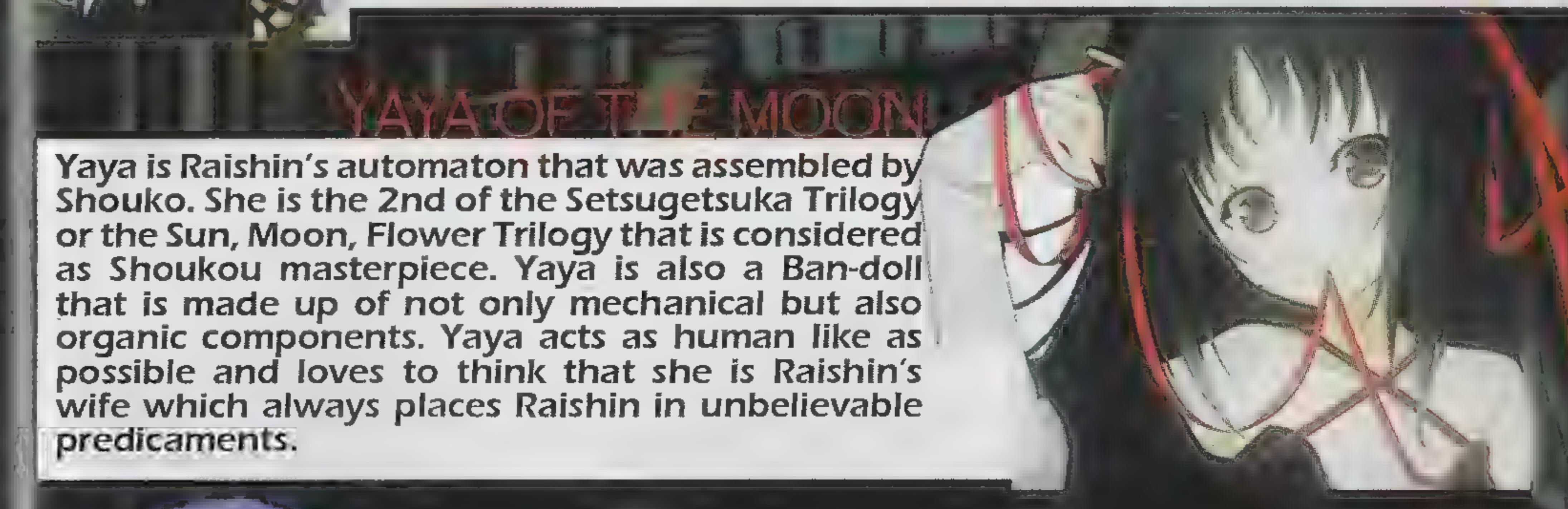
At the end of the day, **Unbreakable Machine-Doll** certainly is a great piece that would leave you craving for more and like others, would inspire you to read the light novels.

CHARACTERS



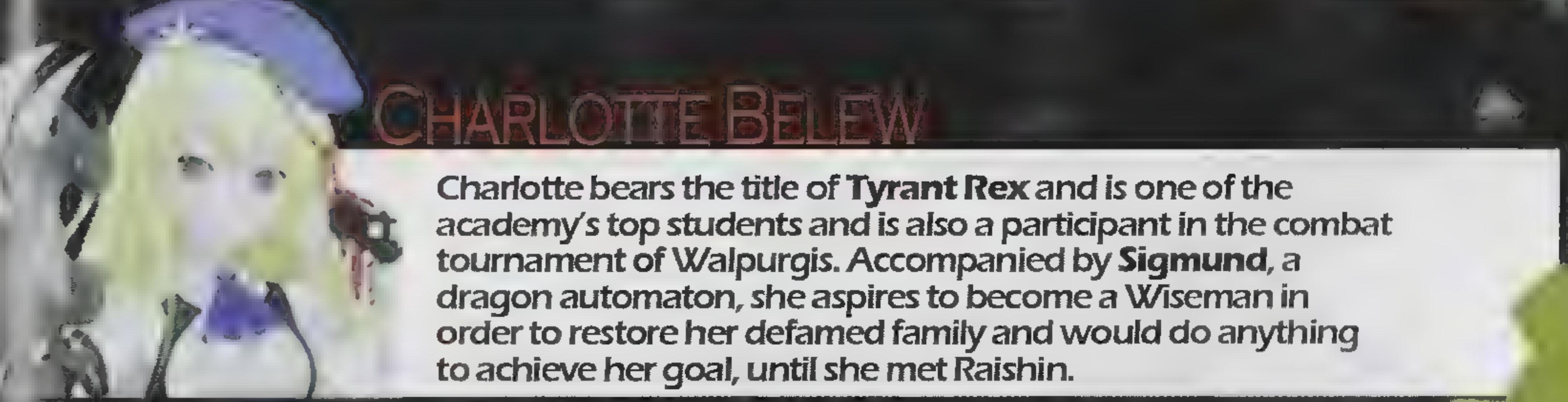
AKABANE RAISHIN

Raishin is the main protagonist and is Yaya's puppet master. Before coming to England, he was shunned by his clan for being incompetent in machineart until they were massacred by an unknown enemy leaving him as the sole survivor. He then met **Shouko** who introduced Raishin to her most prized masterpiece **Yaya**, and gave him a chance to become a puppeteer. He then departed from Japan to enroll in **Walpurgis** in order to become the Wiseman and to find out more about the out who brought demise upon his family.



YAYA OF THE MOON

Yaya is Raishin's automaton that was assembled by **Shouko**. She is the 2nd of the Setsugetsuka Trilogy or the Sun, Moon, Flower Trilogy that is considered as **Shouko** masterpiece. Yaya is also a Ban-doll that is made up of not only mechanical but also organic components. Yaya acts as human like as possible and loves to think that she is Raishin's wife which always places Raishin in unbelievable predicaments.



CHARLOTTE BELEW

Charlotte bears the title of **Tyrant Rex** and is one of the academy's top students and is also a participant in the combat tournament of **Walpurgis**. Accompanied by **Sigmund**, a dragon automaton, she aspires to become a Wiseman in order to restore her defamed family and would do anything to achieve her goal, until she met Raishin.

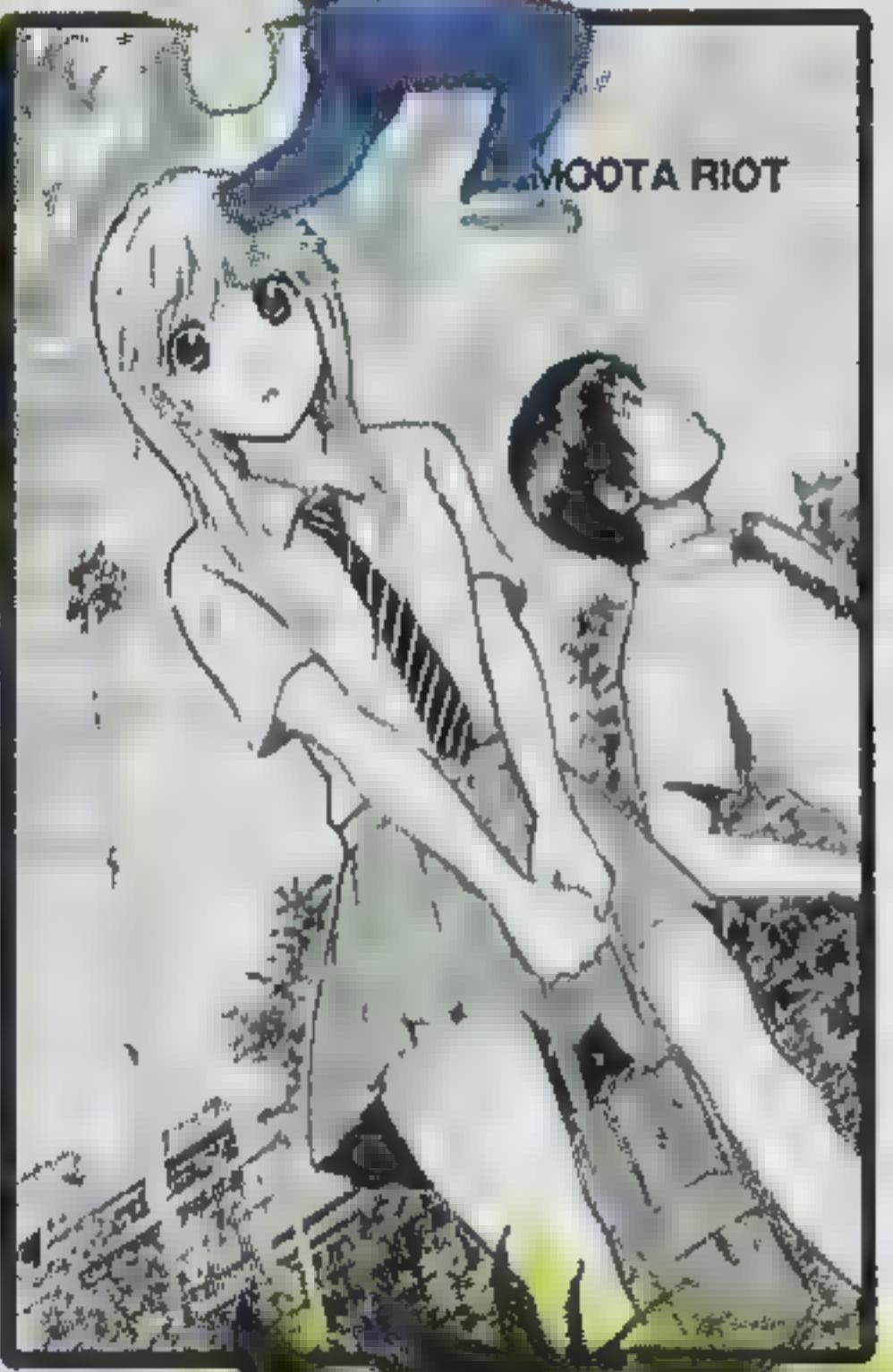
Unbreakable Machine-Doll is definitely an outstanding anime with a great storyline and back story that correlates the relationship of a human and an artificial being. It is highly recommended specially to those who have read the novels and deemed it interesting. What is also noticeable in the show is its animation, though it does deviate from the art and character designs of the original illustrations, it still doesn't seize to amaze viewers with its beautiful animation coupled with CGs that make flashy battle scenes.



MANGA

WAGATSUMA-SAN ORE NO YOME

Ever wonder what will happen to you in the future?
What will be your profession? And who will be your future partner?
What would you do if you were given a chance to see 10 years into the future
in a few minutes?



Meet **Aoshima Hitoshi**, a second year student of Zaishou High is a normal student with bad grades, not so popular and can be considered a loser by most of his classmates. But just like everybody in his age, he wishes to have a girlfriend.

One night he dreams about a woman waking up in his pajamas. Much to his amazement, it was **Wagatsuma Ai**. She is smart, athletic and the most beautiful girl in his class. When they are about to kiss, he suddenly wakes up. Little did he know, that the dream he had was actually a "time-slip".

Time-slip is an ability to take few minutes to peek at a certain event in the future. Not only that, Aoshima now has the upper hand knowing some things that will happen to his friends in the future. Also, he can use this ability to find ways to woo his beloved Wagatsuma-san. Will this be enough to conquer Wagatsuma's heart or will it be a new door to meet new more people who will be problem to his life?

Wagatsuma-san Ore no Yome or translated as **My Wife is Wagatsuma-san** is a comedy, drama, romance, school life, shonen and supernatural written by **Kuraishi Yuu** (Fortress of the Apocalypse) and drawn by **Nishikida Keishi**. The manga started from 2011 and published in **Weekly Shounen Jump**. It's an on-going status with total chapters of 59 released.

This manga has a twist of time-traveling comedy romance. The art style perfectly expresses the character's feelings during crazy situations. It is also shows a lot of popularized various culture such as Jpop idol group, AKB48 and famous artists like Michael Jackson. The epic combination of parodies and "breaking the fourth wall" will surely make you laugh all day.

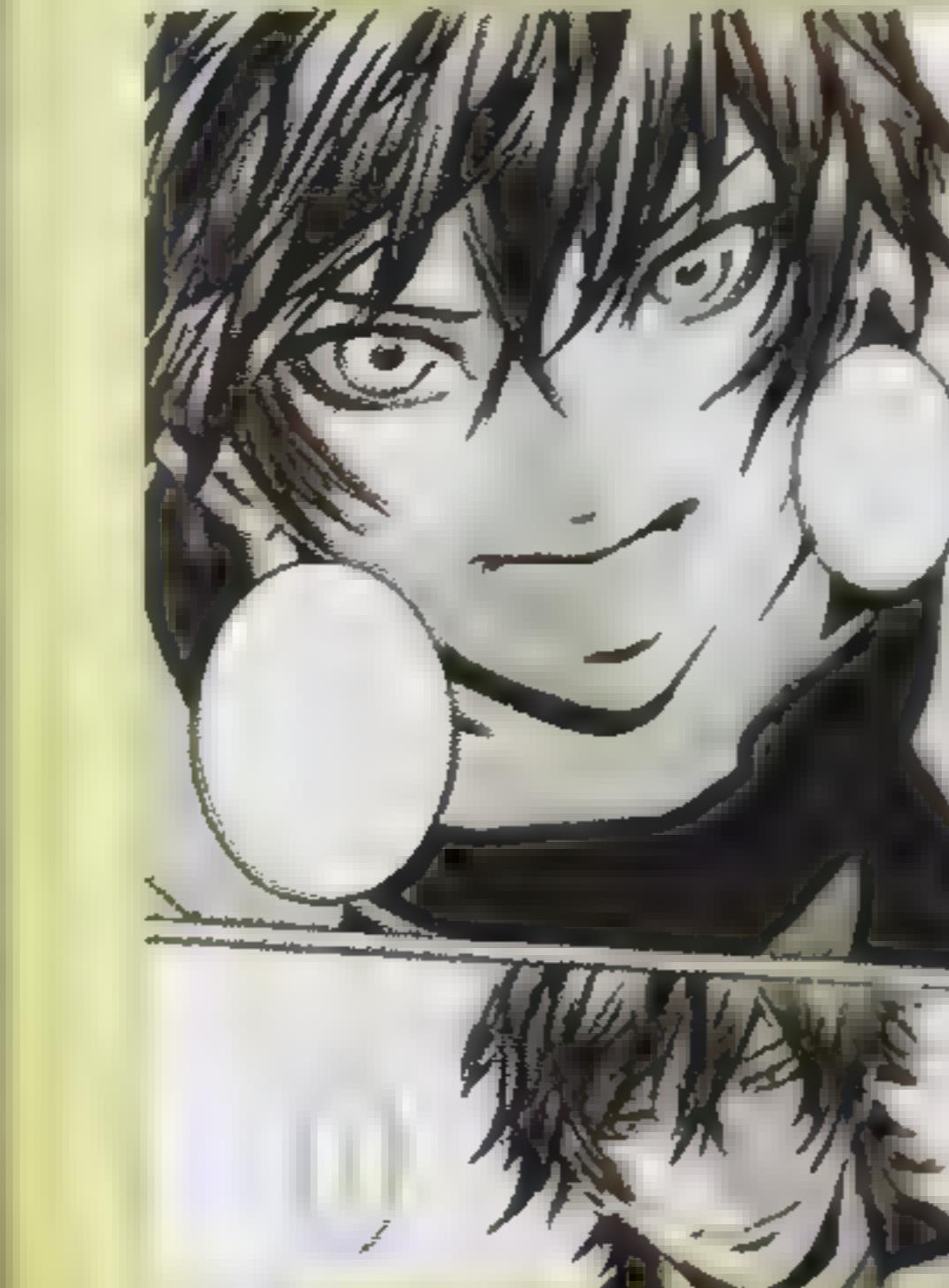


Just something for your pre-valentines jitters

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you can choose your own gender?
To be a man who is strong and masculine or a woman who is delicate and graceful.
If you've decided to be a man but your heart tells you to be a woman?
How will you settle your heart and mind with just one gender?



Prince Ayato Godwin who just turned sixteen is having a dilemma of underdeveloped body. It's also not very helpful that his younger brother, second prince **Sui Godwin**, is every inch manly and strong built. Ayato is the future king of the United Kingdom of Anastasia, but he is lean and weak, wears sloppy school uniform and nerdy glasses. The truth is, he simply doesn't trust everyone and prefers to be alone. Until he meets **Hugo Wolf**, a handsome transfer student who happened to see him in the Magnolia gardens near their school ground. He is the first person to be frank towards Ayato saying that he doesn't actually need glasses and he's only using them to hide himself from the world. This angers Ayato and cries under his bed. On top of it all, **King Albert**, his father, reveals to him the royal family secret that Ayato is in fact genderless. Now 16, Ayato's body will only develop if he falls in love. If with a woman, he will become a man and inherit the throne but if he falls in love with a man he will become a simple woman.



Magnolia is a manga written and drawn by **Naked Ape**, a duo of artists **Saki Otoh** and **Nakamura Tomomi**. It is an on-going comedy, fantasy, romance, harem and gender-bend manga serialized in **Aria (Kodansha)** with a total of 36 chapters released.

Love is in the air and everywhere! Ayato has been having feelings with a girl but after meeting a handsome Hugo Wolf, confusion starts. The story will definitely make you choose who the best candidate for Ayato's love is. The characters develop quickly through the chapters, revealing the mysteries of Ayato, his family and the kingdom. The manga is a very big thumb up. The art is very detailed and smooth. The story has love, comedy and mystery. Shoujo fans will definitely want to read Magnolia.

Shoujo fans will definitely enjoy this manga, so as the girls who look forward to boys love scene. You have to find out and check for yourself! Read now or buy the manga, Magnolia.





written by: Kei

In Dream World

Genre: Action, Ecchi, Fantasy, Mecha, Shounen, Supernatural

By: Yoon Jae Ho

Original Japanese Publication: April 2005

No. of Pages: 192

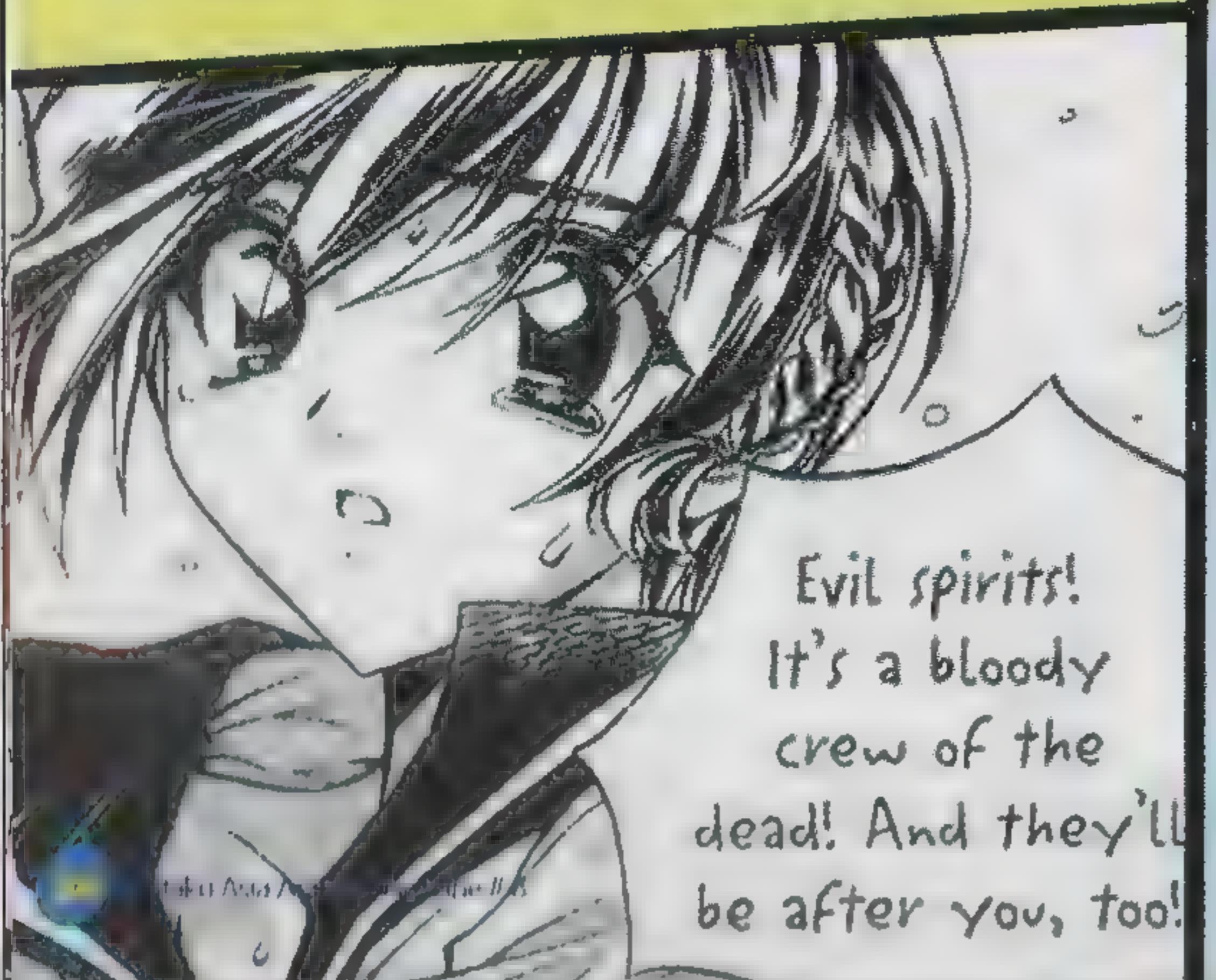
Nightmares are bad enough as they are... But do you know what is worse? The physical manifestation of it!

Hanee opens her eyes only to discover that she woke up in a different world called In Dream World. She discovers beings called Nightmares that feed on fear of people. She also meets Drake, asking him to aid her in finding her way home to Anasika.

Drake is also an alien, he came from a war-torn world. Unlike Hanee, he is determined to seek revenge rather than hurry home.

During their quest, they meet other aliens, who wield In Dream cards and possess elemental powers. Together, they fight Nightmares finding their way around the strange world.

In Dream World is written and drawn by Yoon Jae-Ho, a manhwa. Manhwa is Korean comic. The distinct characteristic that differs it from manga is that it is read in the same direction as English books (left to right). Yoon Jae Ho is also known for his works Metal Heart(2004) and Freezing: First Chronicle(2012).



Evil spirits! It's a bloody crew of the dead! And they'll be after you, too!

This manhwa will keep you on the tip of your toes with continuous twists and turns in the story. It will also keep you interested with some side stories going on, which adds color to the story without confusing the readers. As the protagonists try to pave their way home, they show courage in facing the Nightmares, no matter how powerful the enemy is becoming, they never give up until they accomplish their goals.

Will they really make it home, even though the obstacles become harder as they come closer to what they are searching for?



Masamune-kun no Revenge

written by: Kei

Released: 2012

Author: Takeoka Hazuki

Artist: Tiv

Genres: Comedy, Harem, Romance, School Life, Shounen

When something bad happens to you and it's someone's fault, it's natural that you'd want to get even.

Makabe Masamune is a transfer student who instantly became popular with the girls because of his good looks, athletic and academic ability. But this is merely a facade he needs to maintain in order to carry out his goal—to exact revenge on Aki Adagaki. Unknown to everyone in school, the handsome Makabe used to be a chubby kid people liked to bully. Aki's brutal rejection made him work hard to become what he is now.

As if lady luck smiled on him, Makabe gets to meet the target of his revenge on the very first day after transferring in. With his new appearance, Makabe decided that making Aki fall in-love with him and then reject her in the most humiliating way possible suits her perfectly.

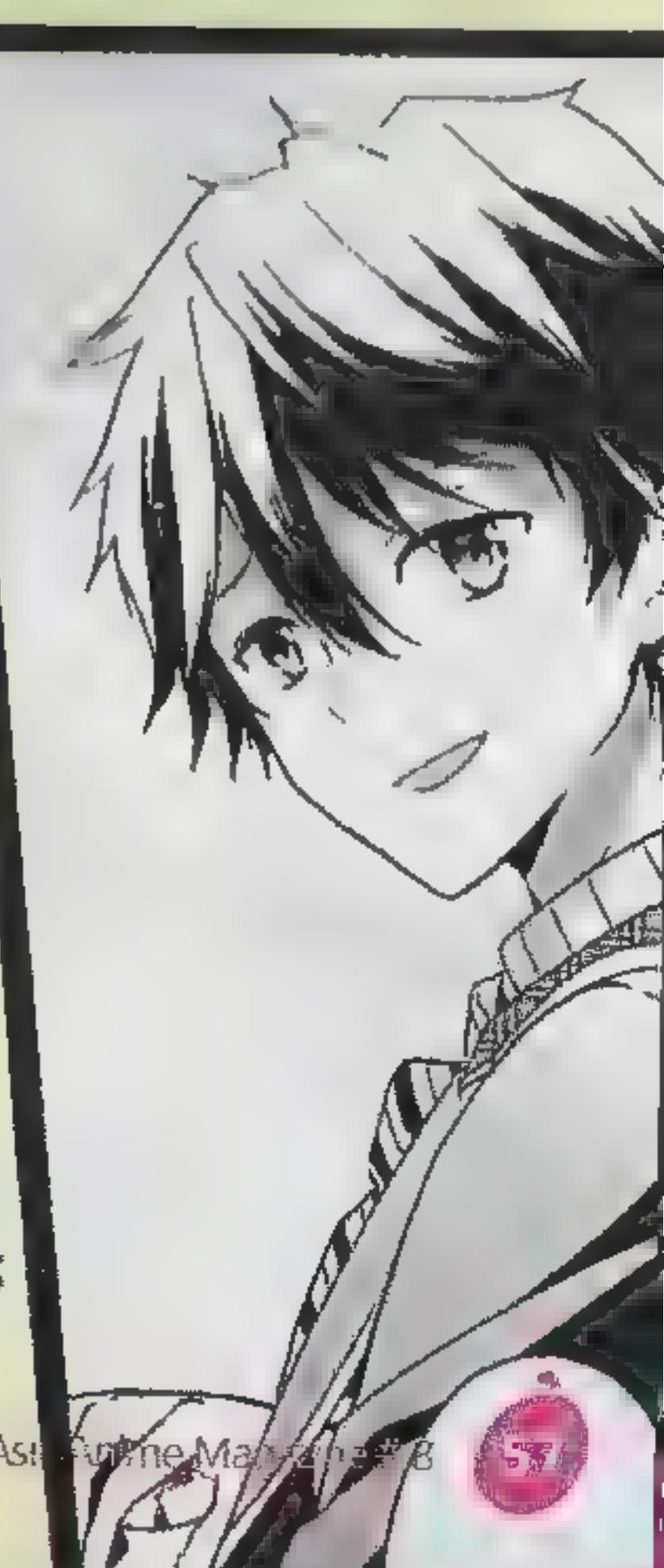
However, his quest for retribution wasn't as easy as he thought it would be...

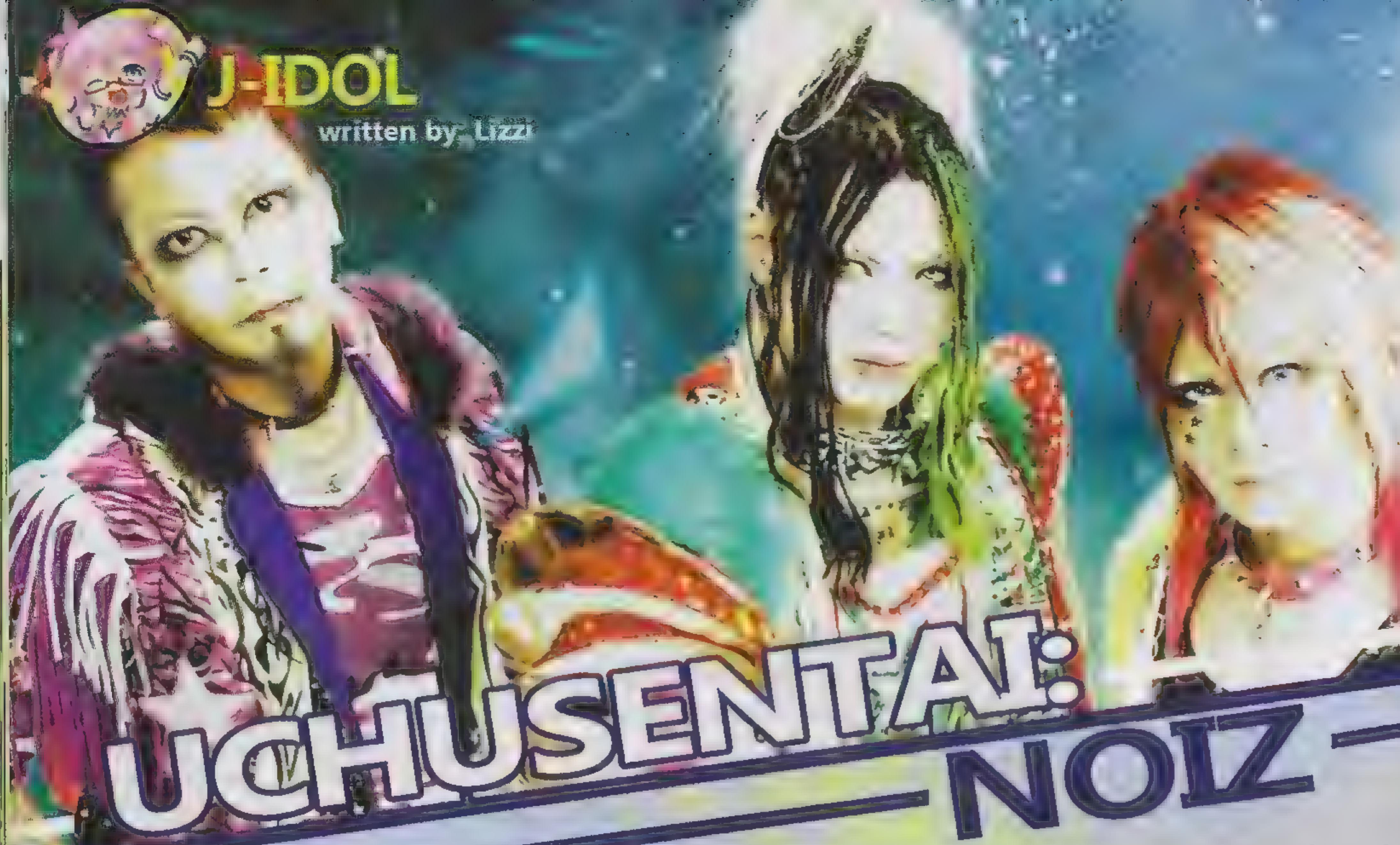
Written by Hazuki Takeoka with Tiv as the illustrator, Masamune-kun no Revenge is an on-going romance manga serialized in Comic Rex since October 2012.

Although his reason is a bit shallow, one can only admire Makabe's dedication as he is able to change himself for the sake of revenge. The manga's art definitely captivates the reader due to it making the characters attractive and appealing to the eyes, but that's not all. Masamune-kun no Revenge has to offer. It's also interesting to see the cast having unexpected character traits that betray their appearances such as Makabe's naivete for using a shoujo manga to get situational references and Aki's monstrous appetite. The manga heavily implies that "looks can be deceiving".

It's a shame that it takes a month or two for a new chapter to come out, despite that, the story is maintaining a good pace and the development between the characters can be seen in every chapter. Since it is a romance manga, a group of girls who sees Makabe as a love interest will appear which might jeopardize his revenge plan. But at the same time, Aki is starting to become aware of her feelings towards Makabe.

Masamune-kun no Revenge is a must-read for those who want something different for a romance manga. They say that revenge is always bitter, but this manga will show you the sweetest revenge ever made.

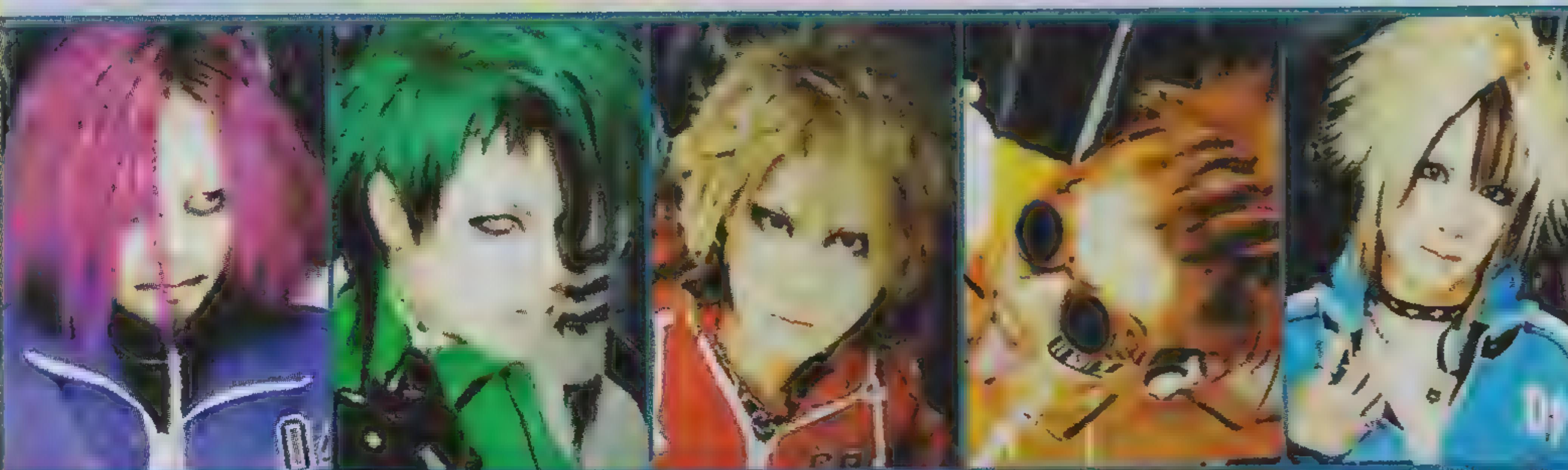




UCHUSENTAI: NOIZ

A band that made a blastreaching to a decade and beyond of old and new generations of J-rock music fans, UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ has already established themselves as space warriors who aim to maintain peace on earth through their music. UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ may either be read as nice (if you're quick with web lingo) or noise as it is. Their music can be described as "refreshing rock music wrapped in spicy blends." Even though rock is the base of their music, they incorporate different elements in their songs such as pop, rap, punk, and metal.

UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ is known for their extravagant cosplay outfits and color-scheming fashion sense evident in their photo shoots, live performances and promotional videos. As space warriors, they have their background stories and roles to play.



Kyo: Super Vibrator's color is purple. He is presumably a part of a secret squad that initiated the destruction of planet on space.

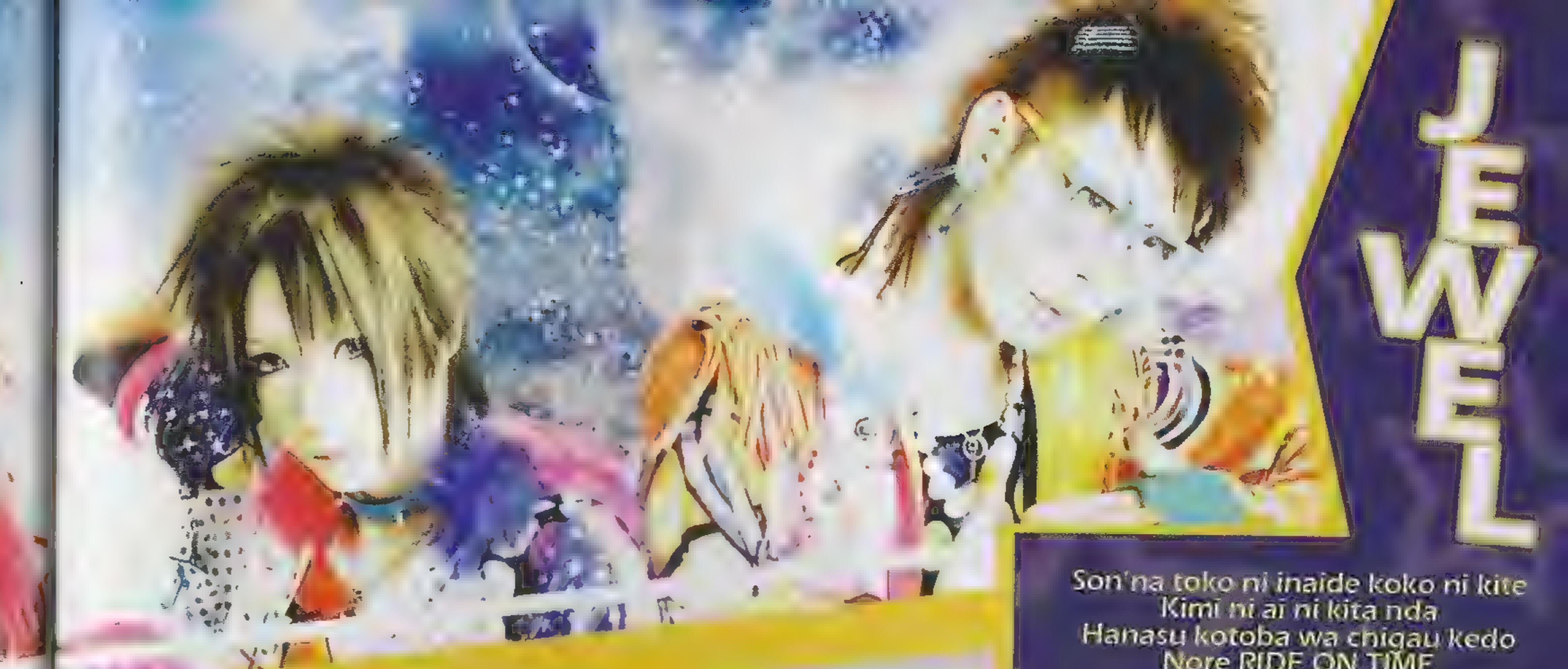
Green is Yamato: Machine Beat Grappler's color scheme. He fights demons as a member of the Squadron to maintain peace and order on Earth.

The color pink is assigned to Angel Taka: Angel Voice. This space warrior died at a young age, but he was revived by the Shiva.

Orange is the color of Masato: Hypersonic Guitar, a fighting humanoid created by earthlings.

Blue is for
Guitarist, Hypersonic
Guitar, a fighting
humanoid created
by earthlings.

With the unique umbrella theme of space and cyborgs, each of their performance is crafted into a creative fit that constantly blows the minds of their audience.



UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ is close to the hearts of their Filipino fans who call themselves "Space Babies". The band spearheaded the presence of Visual-kei artists in the Filipino music industry. The first event in the Philippines where they performed was at the Mindanao Cosplay Summit 2011 held at SM Davao. While other fans complain about how difficult it is to reach out to famous J-music artists and make them visit the Philippines, UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ begs to differ. The cosplay rock band has visited the country several times without any interruption, earning much support from Filipinos. Since then, they have been invited to participate in several anime conventions and music festivals in the country. The rock band grew more famous in the Philippines for their own version of Kamikazee's Narda coupled with a promotional video back in 2012. It gained mostly positive comments from fans of local rock bands and J-rock alike.



Apart from having close ties with the Philippines, UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ is also known for their compassion with victims of calamities. The band helped in charity events for the victims of the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami disaster in Japan. Even the Philippines had its share of a catastrophic blow in 2013 when Typhoon Haiyan (Local Name: Yolanda) devastated some places in the Visayas region. They set up charity boxes and merchandise booths in each concert they had in different countries, encouraging their fans to donate to the victims.

With their efforts to be distinguished from other Visual-kei artists in Japan, UCHUSENTAI:NOIZ grabs the attention of more J-rock buffs, and will definitely continue to do so in the years to come.

Son'na toko ni inaide koko ni kite
Kimi ni ai ni kita nda
Hanasu kotoba wa chigau kedo
Nore RIDE ON TIME

Idoi makase de sora e kokkyougoete
Kimi to wa sutereo taipu
Ima sugu tsutaetai
Koukai shinai LIFE
Ayume saa Boys be

Kono yo ni sei wo uketa toki
Kimi wa ooki na koe de naiteta
Dakedo nee
Mawari no min'na wa
waratteta desho?
Hikari ga sashikomu you ni
Makkurayami terasu no wa
Mae ni ikou to suru kimochi
Nando mo tachiagaru SHAINY GUY
Egaita yume wa kanau to
shinjite iru kara

Mamotte kureru hito ga ite
Kono ima ga aru kara
Mamotte aqeru hito ga iru
DON'T LIFT THE HAND

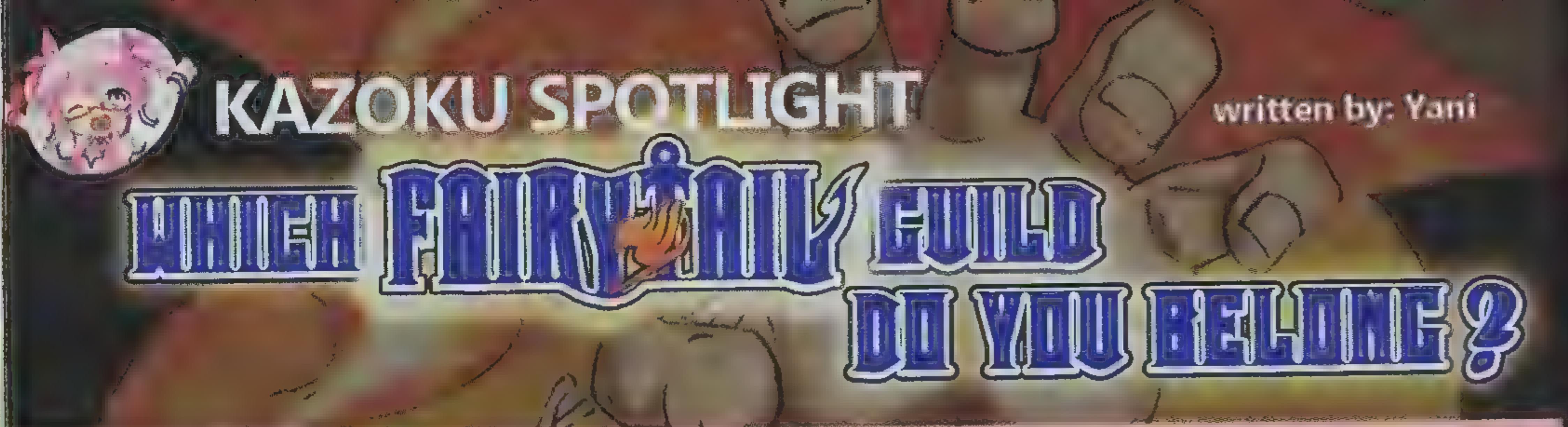
Mitsumete fureau dake
no ai wo sugite
Subete yurushi au yuuki wo
Onaji hou wo massugu
muite ikeru hito to
Ayume saa GIRLS BE AMBITIOUS

Kono yo ni sei wo uketa toki
Kimi wa ooki na koe de naiteta
Dakedo nee
Mawari no min'na wa
waratteta desho?
Kibou no hikari ga sashite

Kami-sama ga iru no nara
Omoikirikansha shitai nda
Itsu demo aiseru SHAINY LADY
Egaita yume wa kanau to
shinjite iru kara

Boku ga owaru toki
Waratte sora ni ikeru you ni
Anata ga kumeta michi*
nara mayowanai
Oshiete kureta osanaki hi

Makkurayami terasu no wa
Mae ni ikou to suru kimochi
Nando mo tachiagaru bokura
Egaita yume wa kanau to
shinjite iru kara



KAZOKU SPOTLIGHT

WHICH FAIRY TAIL GUILD DO YOU BELONG?

In Kingdom Fiore, there is a type of organization called "guild". There are three types of guilds. These are the legal, independent and dark. Each guild is composed of different kinds and types of mages. Some of them are mischievous while some are peaceful. Guilds are made for 2 main reasons: to take jobs in order to have jewels and to hone their magic and skills. Let's find out what guild where you want to be.

FAIRY TAIL

Fairy Tail is one of the legal guilds and is currently the strongest guild in the kingdom of Fiore. The Guild is located at the southern coast in a town called Magnolia. It is led by Makarov Dreyar and has 4 S-class mages. They are Gildarts Clive, Laxus Dreyar, Erza Scarlet and Mirajane Strauss. Although being the strongest of all the guilds; they are disliked by the council due to many of their members are being destructive.

Joining Fairy Tail isn't that hard. You just need the approval of the guild master, regardless of your history, whether you came from another /enemy guild, or the current member/s dislikes you for a particular reason. 2 events are held and celebrated every year by the guild. These are the S-Class Mage Promotion Trial and Fantasia. The S-Class Mage Promotion Trial is an event where mage members of Fairy Tail can advance into being an S-class mage though only selected members can only compete. Fantasia is an event where all members will have a performance in displaying their magic to the people of Magnolia.

SABERTOOOTH

Sabertooth is one of the legal guilds and formerly the strongest guild in the Kingdom of Fiore under the rule of former guild master Diemma. Unlike in Fairy Tail, Sabertooth is more strict, especially when members did an action that stained the guild's name. That member will be excommunicated from the guild. Its current led by Sting Eucliffe. The guild has currently five elite mages namely Sting Eucliffe, Rogue Cheney, Rufus Lore, Orga Nanagear and Minerva Orlando.

Joining Sabertooth has standards, you need to be good in using your magic and skills; as well as you need to be a good fighter. That is the reason why they have only a few members.

CRIME SORCIERE

Crime Sorciere is an independent guild which has no stable location. Independent guilds are not recognized by the magic council and at the same time they are not marked as criminal organization. Crime Sorciere's main goal is to destroy and remove all the evil things that the dark guilds have caused. They also aim to defeat Zeref, the most powerful dark mage of all time.

LAMIA SCALE

Lamia Scale is also one of the legal guilds and is currently the 2nd strongest guild in Fiore. The guild's exact location is unknown and it is lead by Ooba Babasama. They always got 2nd place in the Grand Magic Games for several years. The Grand Magic Games is an annual tournament to determine the strongest guild in Fiore.

They are also known to ally with Fairytail, Blue Pegasus, and Cait Shelter in defeating Oración Seis, one of the dark guilds.

BLUE PEGASUS

Blue Pegasus is also one of the legal guilds and is also dubbed as one of the strongest guilds in Fiore. Its exact location is unknown and it is led by Bob. Most of its members female and attractive and fashionable that makes them icons throughout Fiore. One of its members: Karen Lilica was the cover magazine of the Sorcerer Magazine in the year X781. Jenny Realight: another member of the guild was hailed as Ms. Fiore in the year X791.

They are also known to ally with Fairytail, Cait Shelter and Lamia scale in defeating Oracion Seis.

GRIMDIRE HEART

Grimore Heart is one of the top three dark guilds. and is considered the most powerful among them. The guild's name came from the work "devil's heart" which is the magic source of the guild master's power. The guild doesn't have a stable location; their base is an airship that always travels. The guilds' goal is to collect all the keys that will unlock Zeref's seal and to locate all the black wizards. If these things are aimed, they plan to conquer and rule the world called the Ultimate Magic World.

So, have you chosen what guild so you want to join? Each guild has different types of nature and goals. Some are just being good guys, some wants fame and some wants to put chaos into our world. What is your goal? Does it match in one of the guilds stated above?



GAMERS ARENA

by Mikelle

ASSASSIN'S CREED III LIBERATION

Titles, statures, hierarchy, lineage, power and wealth, none of these matter in the face of death. When death personally comes knocking at your door, escape and survival are none of your options; the only thing you could do is hope that what will befall upon you would be quick and painless.

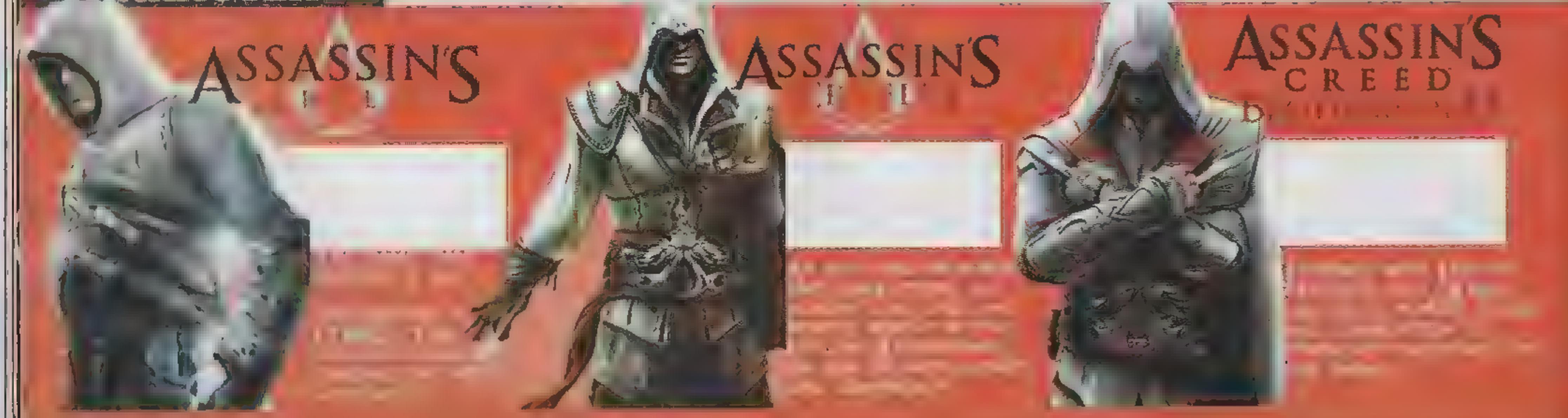
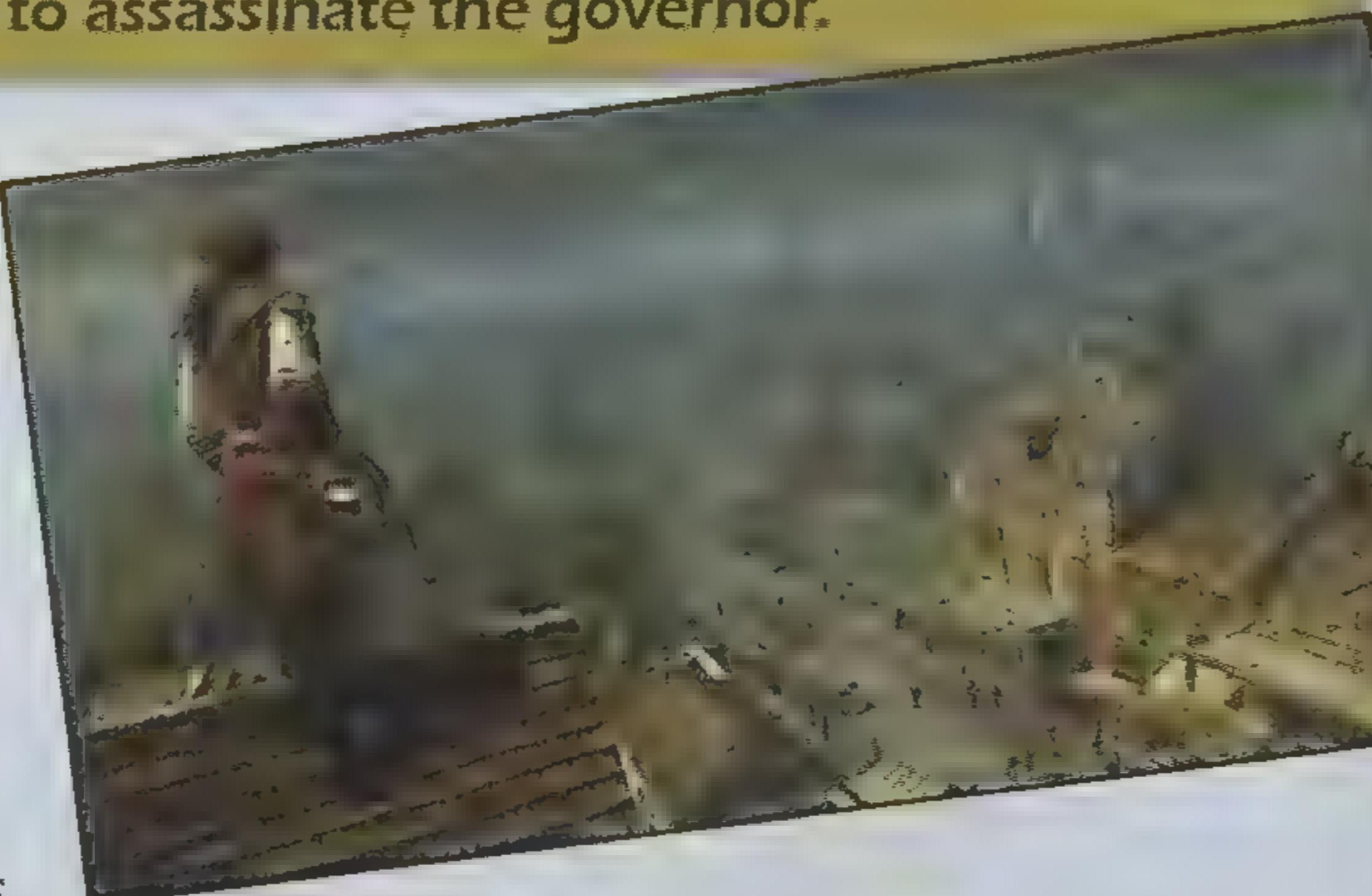
Assassin's Creed III: Liberation is an open world historical stealth action game published and developed by Ubisoft. First announced on September 2013, the game was originally designed for PS Vita but it will be re-released as Assassin's Creed: Liberation HD for the PS3, Xbox 360 and Windows via PS-Network, Xbox Live and Steam. The game is set for release in 2014.

Liberation was released on October of 2012 along with Assassin's Creed III.

Set in between 1765 and 1777, the game takes place at the end of the French Indian War in the city of New Orleans and Louisiana where New Orleans was taken over by the Spaniards due to France's defeat. The French governor, Jean-Jacques Blaise d'Abbadie made a back deal negotiation with the templar Rafael Joaquin de Ferrer to remain as the governor of New Orleans. Incidentally, the conspiracy was unveiled by the game's female protagonist and Assassin Aveline de Grandpré, when she went to assassinate the governor.

Liberation features and shares the same aspects and concepts of Assassin's Creed III as both of them are operated with the same game engine. Both gameplays are very similar in terms of combat and exploration. Liberation utilizes the Vita's touch screen, rear touch pad, cameras and gyroscope to emanate new sensations that was not available with its previous installments.

ASSASSIN'S
NAME
THE LEAD
CHARACTER



A Sister within the Brotherhood



Assassin's Creed: Liberation HD that is set for release in early 2014 is guaranteed to provide the same if not better experience as Liberation. The game will be reworked and re-tweaked to further utilize the console's capabilities so that players could get the most experience out of Liberation in High Definition. The upcoming HD version also features 15 new missions that will introduce new challenges for players. The HD port is also the first game of the franchise that was originally released as an exclusive and is then ported to other consoles.

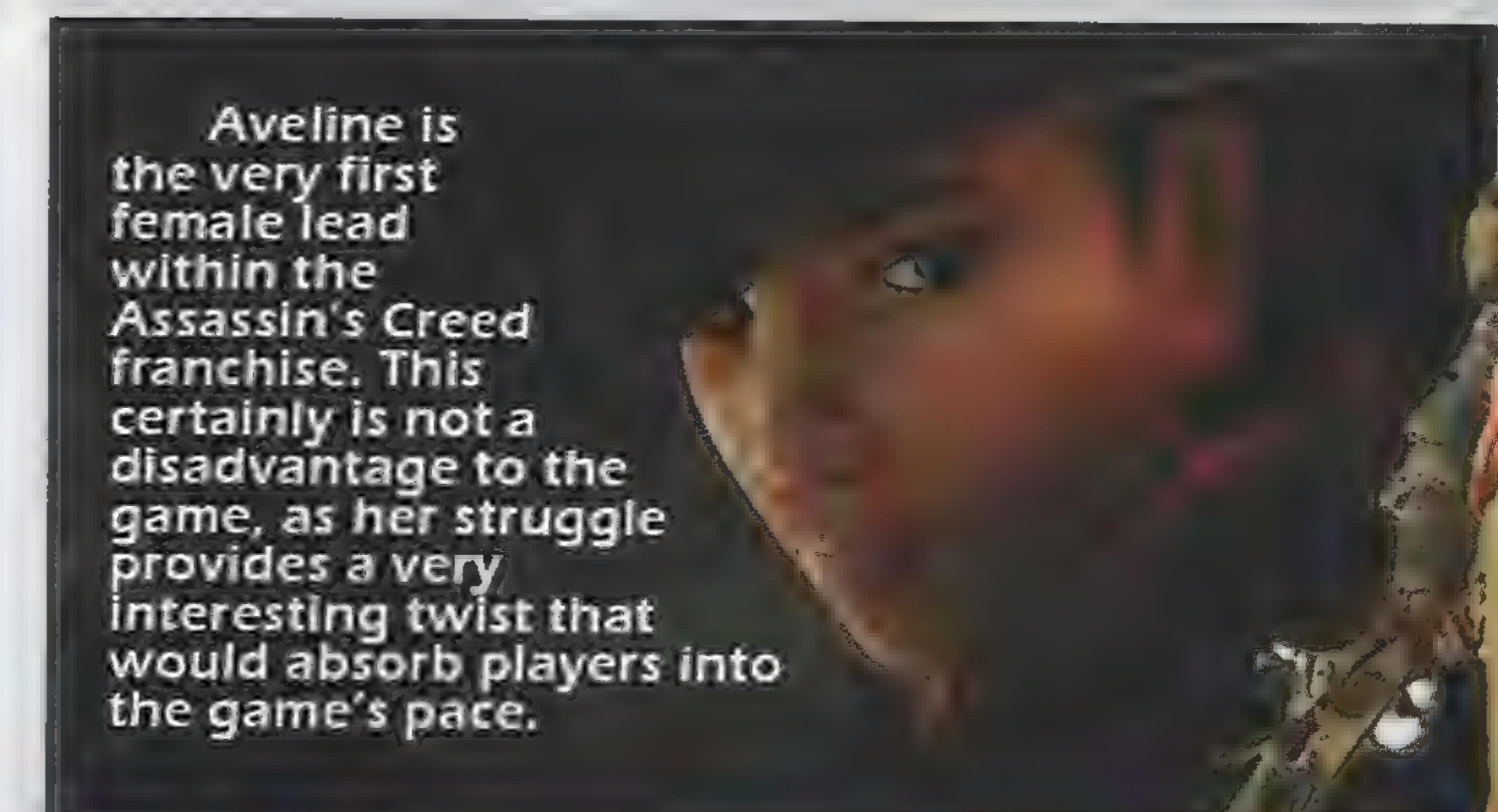
Overall, Assassin's Creed Liberation doesn't fail to amaze those who crave stealth action games especially those avid fans of the Assassin's Creed franchise. Those who do not possess a Vita would surely be left at their wit's end while awaiting its release for other consoles.



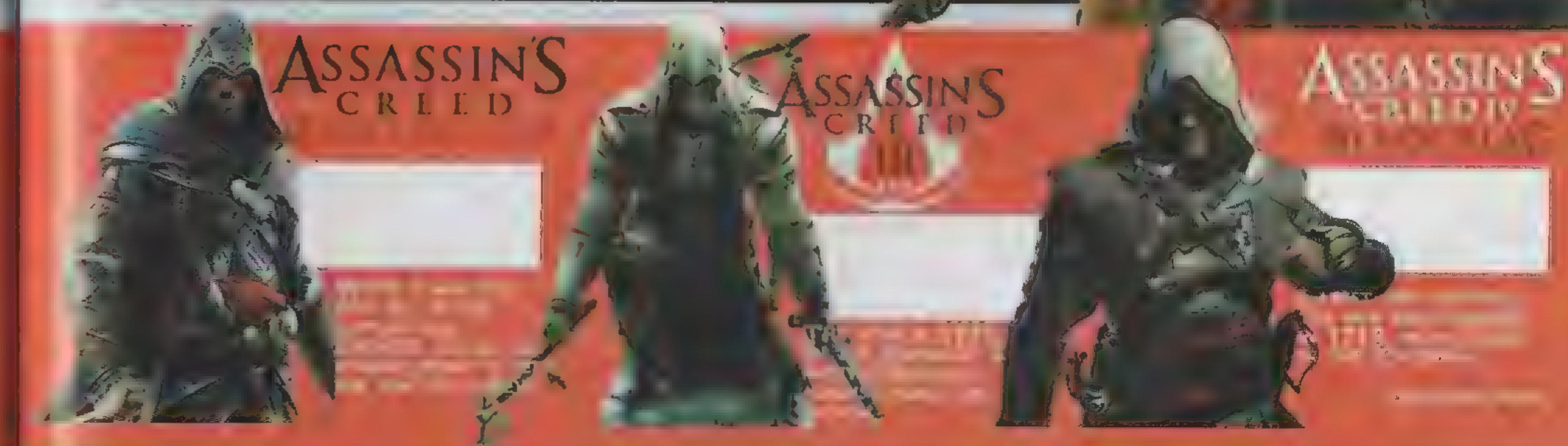
PLAYABLE CHARACTER

Aveline de Grandpré

Aveline, the game's female protagonist, was an Assassin who lived in New Orleans and is descendant of Subject 1. Her parents were a wealthy French merchant and an African slave. Due to certain circumstances, Aveline was rescued by Agaté, Aveline's mentor and the Assassin who took her in and introduced her to the Brotherhood.



Aveline is the very first female lead within the Assassin's Creed franchise. This certainly is not a disadvantage to the game, as her struggle provides a very interesting twist that would absorb players into the game's pace.



GAMERS ARENA
CROSS CLOSER LINE
DIMENSION CONFLICT

ULTRA HIGH SPEED ACTION FIGHTING MMORPG

CLOSERS



Mankind was suddenly attacked by invading monsters from the dimensional gates that opened all over the planet. Each country sent their military forces to defend their home against the wave of invaders, but their weapons and tactics had no effect on them. The monsters mercilessly destroyed one city after another as they proved that humans are no match for them. Fortunately, these dimensional gates also turned out to be their last ray of hope.

A small fraction of humans can finally use **ESP** as a side effect to the gate's sudden appearance. With these warriors, they were able to turn the tide of war in their favor. After the tragedy that happened, the people of earth were able to close the dimensional gates. The invasion of the dimensional monsters was named as the "First Dimensional War" and the brave psychic warriors who drove them out of Earth are referred to as "Closers".

By the time peace returned to the world and the ravaged cities were rebuilt, an organization called **UNION** was formed in order to research the psychokinetic power with the hopes of preventing another dimensional war from breaking out. But then the dimensional gates around the world started acting up again—with an army of powerful dimensional monsters continue their invasion on Earth.

Be a part of the Black Lambs now and protect New Seoul from the invaders in this high speed action fighting RPG: **CLOSERS** Online.

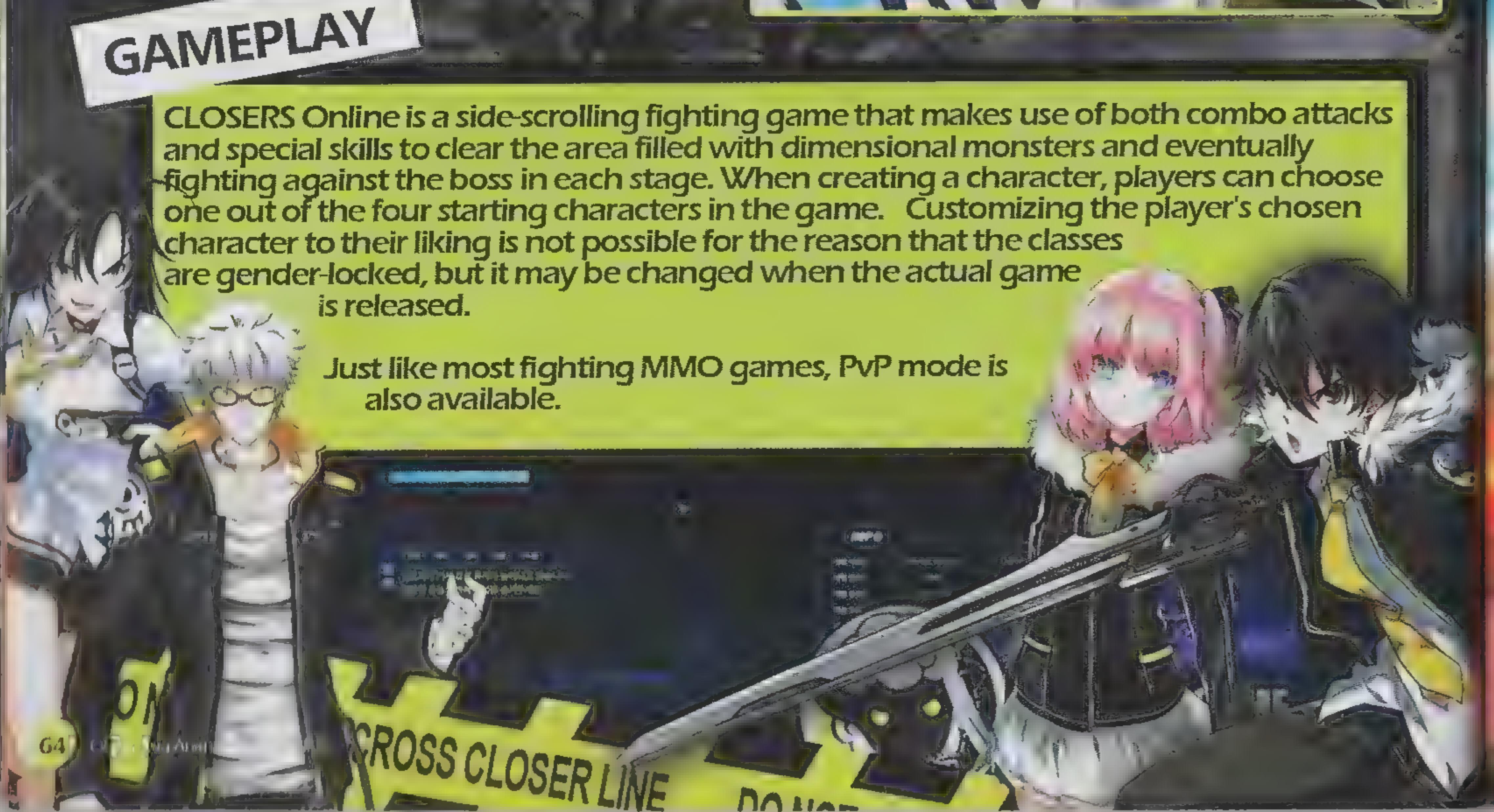
CLOSERS is an upcoming sci-fi fighting MMORPG developed by the **NADDIC Games**. The game's teaser website can be viewed in Korean, Japanese and English, hinting that it might have a Japanese server as well as a North American or a South-East Asian server in the future.



GAMEPLAY

CLOSERS Online is a side-scrolling fighting game that makes use of both combo attacks and special skills to clear the area filled with dimensional monsters and eventually fighting against the boss in each stage. When creating a character, players can choose one out of the four starting characters in the game. Customizing the player's chosen character to their liking is not possible for the reason that the classes are gender-locked, but it may be changed when the actual game is released.

Just like most fighting MMO games, PvP mode is also available.



ULTRA HIGH SPEED ACTION FIGHTING MORPG

BLAZBLUE

CHRONOPHANTASMA

REBEL AGAINST THE CASUALTY

The city of Ikaruga was once the site of a civil war that marked NOL's tyrannical rule over the world. **Ragna the Bloodedge**, along with **Taokaka** approaches the city in hopes of finding the answers to the dark conspiracies related to **Yuuki Terumi**'s actions and the **Imperator**—who turns out to be his long lost sister, **Saya**. Meanwhile, **Noel Vermillion** and **Makoto Nanaya** plots a rescue plan for **Tsubaki Yayoi**, who is currently under the influence of **Terumi**'s brainwashing.

Continuing after the events of **Continuum Shift**, Arc System Works is proud to present the third installment of the **BlazBlue** series!

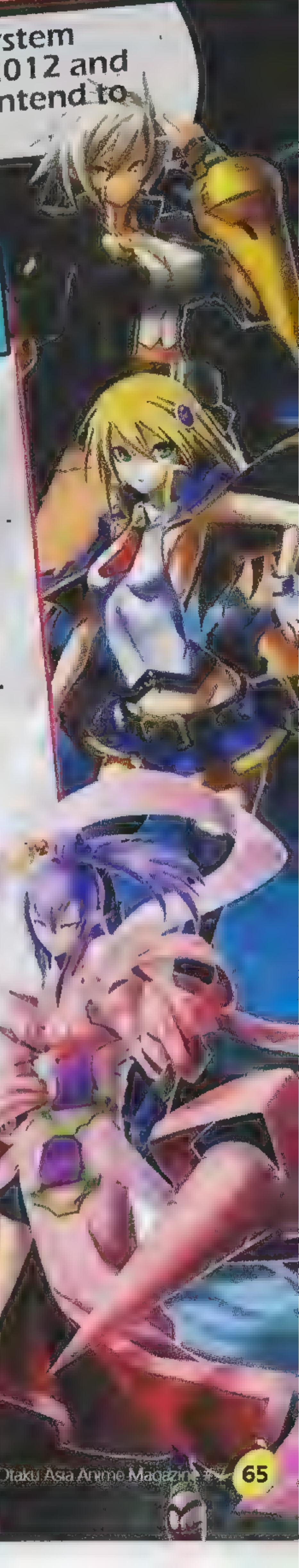
BlazBlue: Chronophantasma is a 2D fighting game developed by Arc System Works. It was first released as an arcade game in Japan on November 2012 and a PlayStation 3 version came out last October 24. Lastly, Aksys Games intend to release the North American version next year.

NEW FEATURES

Lots of changes have been made with **BlazBlue: Chronophantasma**. Aside from rebalancing and move updates, several gameplay mechanics have been revamped.

- The character sprites have been remade and several new songs were added in the game. Most of their battle themes are remixed with their titles bearing the same name as the original, but with a **II** on the end.
- A new gameplay mechanic called "Overdrive" is replacing the Gold Bursts from **Continuum Shift**. When activated, it boosts the fighter's strength and gain access new moves unique to them. Overdrive lasts for 5 seconds after activating. However, the duration extends to 15 seconds at lower health and freezes the timer.
- Replacing Guard Trigger is "Crush Trigger" which allows the player to crush the opponent's guard at the cost of 25% of their heat gauge.
- Individual storylines have been removed from the game. Instead, the story mode is now separated into three parts: **chronophantasma**, **Sector Seven** and **Six Heroes**.
- Amane Nishiki**, **Azrael**, **Bullet**, and **Izayoi** are the four new characters that has a relevance to the current story. **Murakumo** unit characters **Nu-13** and **Mu-12** makes a return in the roster, making **Lambda-11** the only character that appeared in one game. The console version offers **Yuuki Terumi**, **Kagura Mutsuki** and **Kokonoe** as three new playable characters in the roster.
- The archenemy **Gigant: Take-Mikazuchi** is a console-exclusive Story Mode Final Boss.

Whether you're a hardcore **BlazBlue** fan or a casual gamer with a knack for fighting games, **BlazBlue: Chronophantasma** is sure to give you one hell of a fighting game experience like no other.



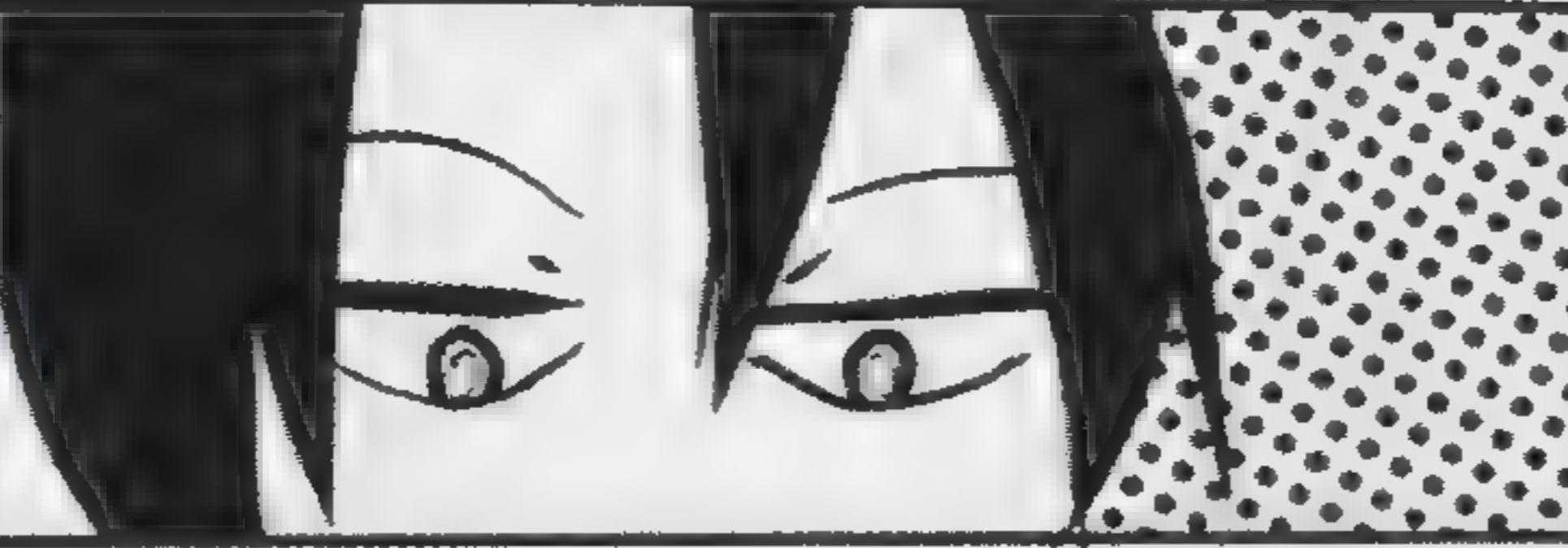
FRUITLOOP-CHAN

ARTIST.MANGAKA

We've always admired the people who illustrate the manga we read. From the way the characters eyes are drawn to the way the clothes are sketched, it never fails to amaze us. Practically, the artist's style is something every manga reader looks forward to, aside from the main story plot. Inevitably, there are times when no matter how invested you are in a story, if the art doesn't interest you, the choice between whether to continue reading it or not is a no-brainer.



Some of her notable works include "Demon March." Demon March is about Rion Winters, your typical wimpy kid trying to survive his school life. One day, Rion got kidnapped by a cult that worships the god 'Ragnarok', and decided to make him a sacrifice. His best friend Xen tried to save him but all to no avail. When he woke up, he found out he was in hell, and met a demon named Reno. This manga has been revamped and improved.



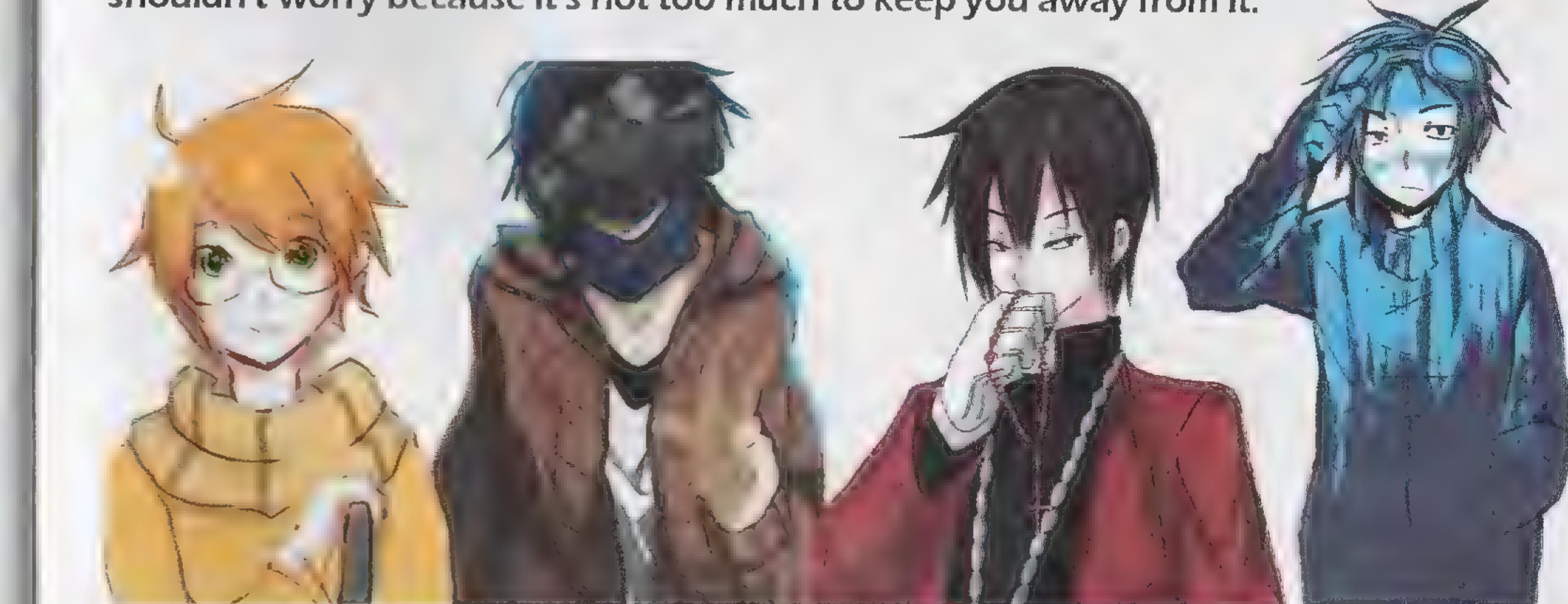
And in drawing a la manga, Aimee Manuel is no stranger; in fact she draws like a pro. Aimee, who also uses the name 'Fruitloop-chan' but mostly known as Arme-chan, is an artist from Cotabato City who has done quite a lot of works herself. These include mangas, original artwork and fanart. These has gotten her into a some fans from around the world.



Fruitloop also did a one-shot titled "Crow's Academy." It is about a school for children who have superpowers. It's only 4 pages but it's enough to love her for it. Arme sent this to Komikon 2013 as a contest entry.



"Knife Brigade" Is about Erick Knife II, the son of the owner of the agency called 'KNIFE Brigade'. KNIFE Brigade's job is to kill every single escaped and wanted criminal. But all Erick wanted was to open a coffee shop and lead a normal life, away from his father's influences, and this is where the conflict comes as Erick's father wants him to follow his steps and inherit their business. The manga contains gore, and readers who love gore will definitely enjoy it. If you're someone who doesn't prefer violence, you shouldn't worry because it's not too much to keep you away from it.



People should give Fruitloop-chan's works a try because it's deserving of attention.

fruitloop-chan.deviantart.com
tapastic.com/Fruitloop-chan
facebook.com/ArmeChansPage

scan the QR code to go to Fruitloop-chan's page in MangaMagazine.net





BITZ

THE HOBBIT

THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Bilbo Baggins is miles away from home sweet home to help twelve dwarves find theirs.

The movie trilogy that started last year is on its second installment entitled *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*.

Smaug is a red dragon who took the treasures and homeland of the Durin's Folk of Erebor. Forcing its citizens to flee, the dragon slept for years and years. Dwarves can live for a very long time and some of them can still remember the events that led them in exile.

One of these dwarves is their King, Thorin Oakenshield. Determined to get his father's kingdom back, he sought the help of Gandalf and a little hobbit burglar, Bilbo Baggins.

Bilbo regarded himself as an ordinary hobbit of the Shire: traditional and simple. After hearing the quest to take back Erebor, he unexpectedly went out for an adventure.

After a few scratches and wrong turns, the group found themselves inside a giant sized house, walking in circles inside a sick forest and almost became the lunch of huge spiders.

Saved and imprisoned by the elves of Mirkwood, the dwarves become helpless. So does the audience because we once again see Legolas!

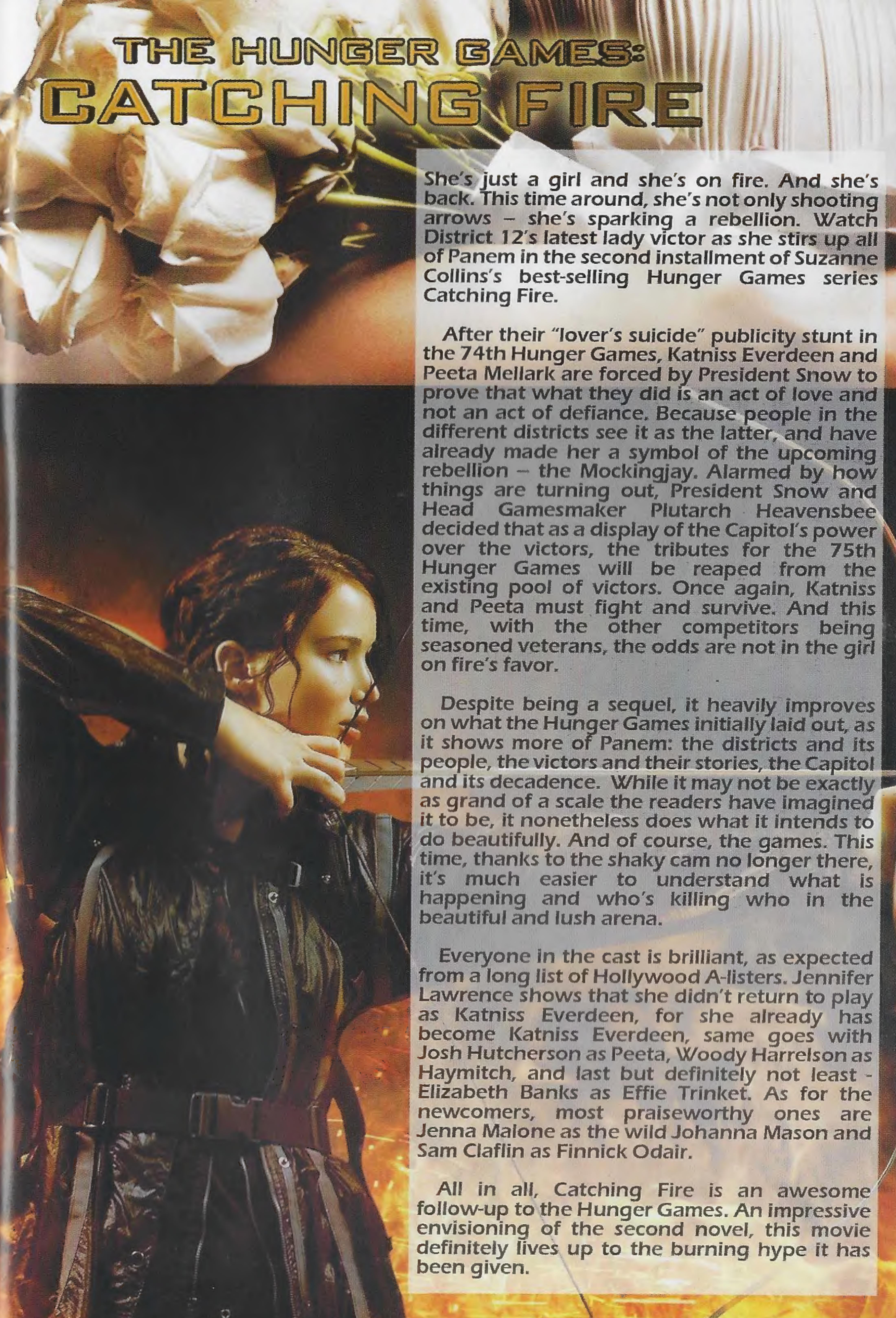
Prince of the Woodland Realm, a younger Legolas shares his father's hate of dwarves and their greed. There is, however, Tauriel. She's the commander of the guards alongside Legolas. While the dwarves were behind bars, Killi befriended the she-elf and even developed feelings! EEEee~

After a few barrel rolling and a few running around, the team made it to Lonely Mountain.

Where Smaug expects them.

While the book and the movie may have a lot of differences, you'll still be very entertained following the adventure of Bilbo Baggins.

As a trivia, some facts from other J.R.R. Tolkien's books are also in the movie. Director – extended one book into three movies so he could add all these facts.



THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE

She's just a girl and she's on fire. And she's back. This time around, she's not only shooting arrows – she's sparking a rebellion. Watch District 12's latest lady victor as she stirs up all of Panem in the second installment of Suzanne Collins's best-selling Hunger Games series *Catching Fire*.

After their "lover's suicide" publicity stunt in the 74th Hunger Games, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark are forced by President Snow to prove that what they did is an act of love and not an act of defiance. Because people in the different districts see it as the latter, and have already made her a symbol of the upcoming rebellion – the Mockingjay. Alarmed by how things are turning out, President Snow and Head Gamesmaker Plutarch Heavensbee decided that as a display of the Capitol's power over the victors, the tributes for the 75th Hunger Games will be reaped from the existing pool of victors. Once again, Katniss and Peeta must fight and survive. And this time, with the other competitors being seasoned veterans, the odds are not in the girl on fire's favor.

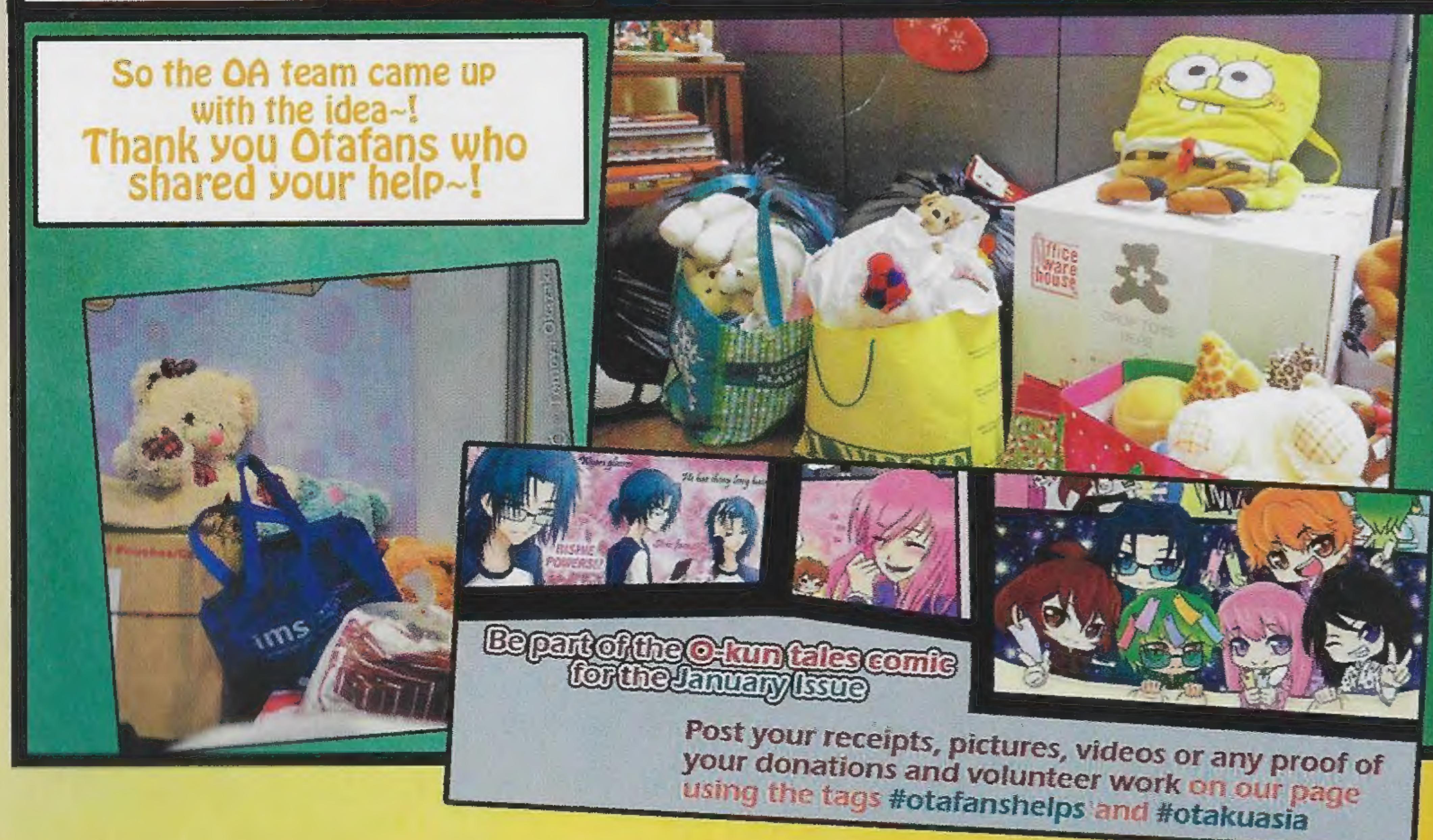
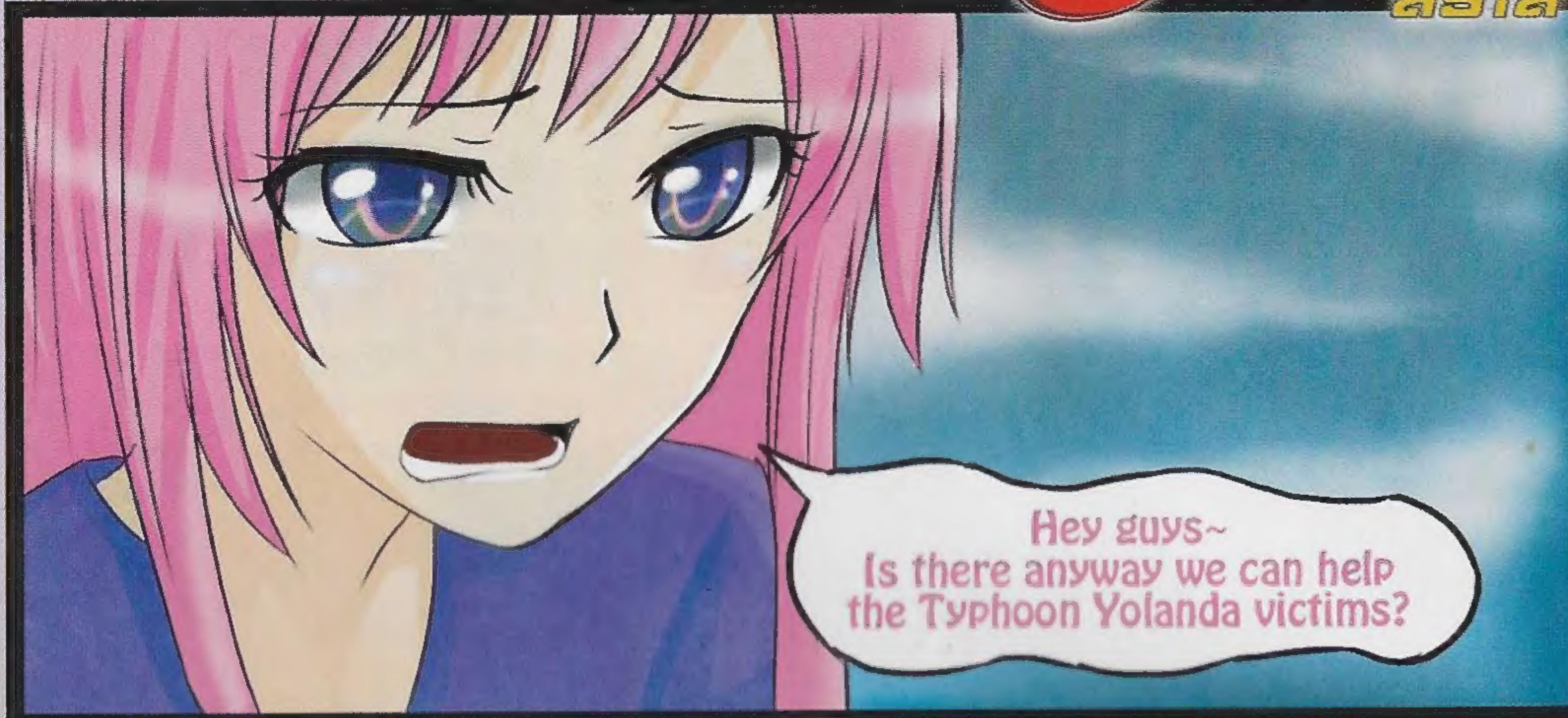
Despite being a sequel, it heavily improves on what the Hunger Games initially laid out, as it shows more of Panem: the districts and its people, the victors and their stories, the Capitol and its decadence. While it may not be exactly as grand of a scale the readers have imagined it to be, it nonetheless does what it intends to do beautifully. And of course, the games. This time, thanks to the shaky cam no longer there, it's much easier to understand what is happening and who's killing who in the beautiful and lush arena.

Everyone in the cast is brilliant, as expected from a long list of Hollywood A-listers. Jennifer Lawrence shows that she didn't return to play as Katniss Everdeen, for she already has become Katniss Everdeen, same goes with Josh Hutcherson as Peeta, Woody Harrelson as Haymitch, and last but definitely not least – Elizabeth Banks as Effie Trinket. As for the newcomers, most praiseworthy ones are Jenna Malone as the wild Johanna Mason and Sam Claflin as Finnick Odair.

All in all, *Catching Fire* is an awesome follow-up to the Hunger Games. An impressive envisioning of the second novel, this movie definitely lives up to the burning hype it has been given.

Remember Yolanda:
LET'S HELP~!

Otaku
asia



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#THROWBACK

NOW AND THEN, HERE AND THERE



A boy is transported into a mysterious other world, meets a girl, saves the day, and everybody is happy in the end – A pretty common theme in anime. However, don't expect such butterflies and rainbows in *Now and Then, Here and There*.

The story is about an ordinary, carefree, happy-go-lucky boy named Shuzo "Shu" Matsutani. One afternoon, as he was strolling around town, he found a quiet blue-haired girl sitting on top a factory smokestack. He climbed up on one as well and chatted with her under the beautiful sunset. Her name is Lala-Ru. Suddenly, it seems as if time stopped – the river stopped flowing, birds froze midair and the sun did not set. Out of nowhere, two mechanical serpents loomed over them and a robot grabs Lala-Ru. Shu then springs into action in a desperate attempt to save her. In a world with robots, child soldiers, and a giant red sun, what is going to happen to Shu and Lala-Ru next?

The show was released back in 1999. The art is simple, unique and illustrates very well the dystopian post-apocalyptic setting. The music, on the other hand, perfectly complements the melancholic atmosphere, with every sad note tugging on your heartstrings.

Unlike other anime that involves the hero being transported to another world, this one neither bestows any special power or ability to him, nor is he able to make the other characters see things his way. Instead, he is subject to a harsh reality where water is a rare commodity and the land is torn apart by war. Despite the gritty realism and cynicism, the show never fails to show a glimmer of hope through Shu's actions.

If you have a penchant for poignant and dramatic classics, *Now and Then, Here and There* is just the right anime for you. While it's quite the downer, it does have moments that would make you smile.

by James

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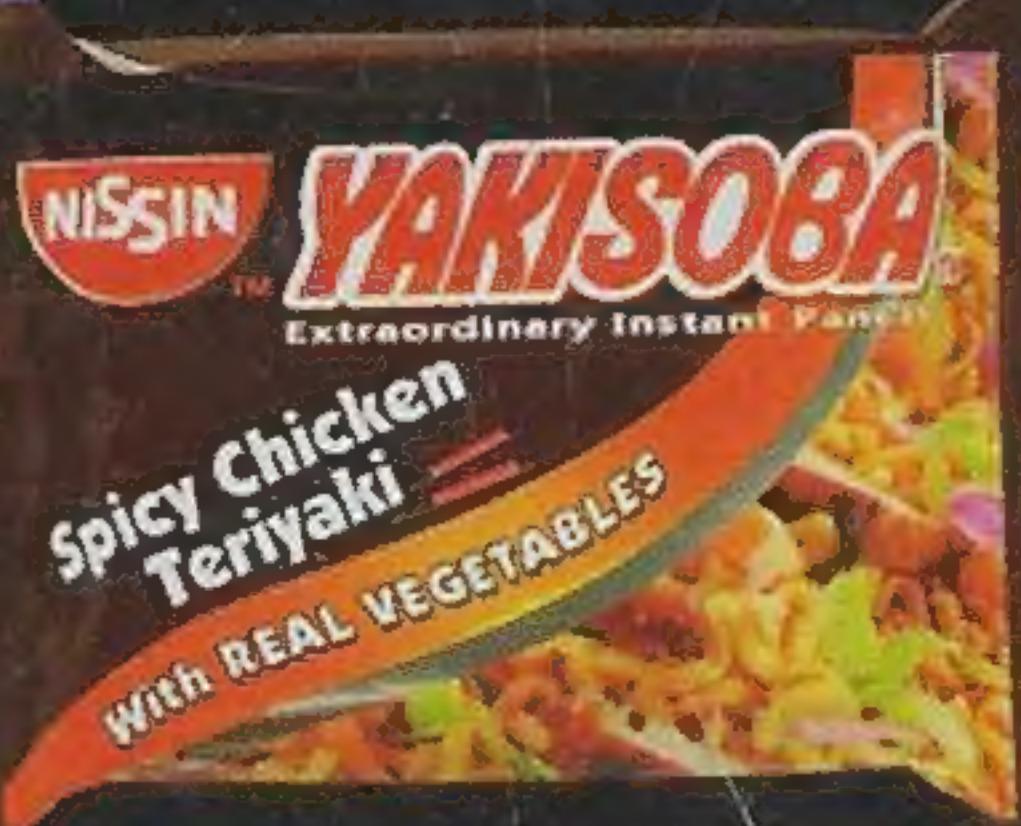
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*Serving suggestion only.

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